**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

**CONSERVATION-LAKE COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**THURSDAY August 11, 2016**

**7:00 PM**

**TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**  Peter Zawisza, Joe Carbonell, Tom O’Brien, Wes Jenks, Martin Podskoch, Irene Curtis, Bob Hart

**Others Present:** Jeremy Hall, Director of Park & Rec, Don Mitchell, Director of Chatham Health Dept., Kevin Kuhr, P&Z Liaison

**Absent:**  John Roche

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zawisza at 7:00 p.m.

**Seating of Alternates:** Mr. Hart was seated

**Approval of Minutes:**

*A motion was made by Mr. O’Brien and seconded by Ms. Curtis to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2016 meeting. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.*

**Communications and Liaison Reports:**

Mr. Hall introduced himself as the new dedicated staff member to the group.

**Public Remarks:** None

**Plan Review:** None

**Watershed Proposal Update:** Mr. Jenks asked about information for a meeting with the Town Council. Chairman Zawisza stated that he reached out to Council Chairperson Anderson and has not been provided with more detailed input. Mr. Carbonell has asked Dr. Knoecklein to meet with the various lake associations to discuss items from the 9 Point Plan, and educate about what can be done on private land. He is planning September or October to do another community presentation.

Public member, Paul Peterson, who does not live in East Hampton, asked about the 9 point plan and how it will move forward if the Council doesn’t want to push it forward. Mr. Carbonell replied that he thinks they have decent support for the plan and a plan for funding ideas from the 9 point plan. Whether the plan is approved or not by the state, the data stays the same and is still useful. They are now hoping to not ask the town for funding, but to go to bonding so once the money for the lake is appropriated, they will have it.

Discussion occurred on the 9 point plan and how it is a total watershed management plan that can be implemented at a local level. Dennis Jenks stated that he sees the lake issues as an economic problem for the whole town, and stated it would be interesting to see what the numbers are for what percent of the budget comes from tax payers in the watershed. He noted it would be good to show what the impact to the town would be if those numbers went down 25 – 30%.

Further discussion occurred on budgets, funding, real estate values, etc. in relation to the lake. Also discussed was background on the algae problem and the testing and regulation changes at the state level. Mr. Jenks stated that the public needs to come out more and push for the lake, also that there are currently no zoning restrictions in the watershed area.

Don Mitchell, Director of the Chatham Health District, gave background on the State guidelines for advisories and closures. He discussed sampling methods and what they look for in cell count. He stated that he will attend the Conservation Lake meetings when possible.

**Old Business:**

1. **Sub-Committee Report on Education:** No report
2. **Advisory Panel Update:** August 22 is the next meeting. Mr. Carbonell stated that NEAR is continuing their testing and they have asked DEEP to expedite the approval of the 9 point plan. There was discussion on the town filing for a permit for a copper sulfate treatment and the timing of this and the backlog within the state. This would be a light treatment, costing around $6,000.

*Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. O’Brien, to have the Conservation Lake Commission request NEAR to distribute test results to Commission members as soon as they are available. Voted 7-0.*

**New Business:**  Mr. Jenks asked about using the town-wide phone system to announce a meeting on lake education. Mr. Hall suggested that the Park & Rec email database could be utilized.

Discussion occurred on the website that Mr. Jenks talked about at July’s meeting, and the details of what this would be used for as well as logistics. It was suggested that Mr. Jenks and Mr. Hart be appointed to the education sub-committee to help with this project.

Mr. Carbonell thanked Mr. Jenks for the informational signs that were used at Old Home Days.

**Public Remarks:**

A community member suggested that if something is being sent to homes in regards to education, that it is clearly labeled with “you are receiving this information because you are part of the Lake Pocotopaug watershed”, since the watershed is so large and some people within it do not even realize their property is part of it because of not being near the lake.

Dave Purple, owner of one of the islands in the middle of the lake, stated that he found a “Reflections” newsletter (which was a newsletter that was sent out by the former Lake Advisory Committee) from 1994 that is talking about the same things that are being discussed today. He stated that maybe they should be talking to town administration as they haven’t really done anything about it for 22 years. Mr. Hart stated that there have been many reports done over the years but none were organized as well as this plan, nor were as fitting to federal and state regulations.

A community member asked about the timeline for the 9 point plan to show improvement in the lake. Chairman Zawisza explained that the timeline is not outlined. There is no “silver bullet” to fix a problem, especially as most of the issues are occurring on private property.

**Adjournment**

*Mr. O’Brien made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Carbonell, at 8:06 p.m.. Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti

Recording Secretary