

LONG ISLAND
SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE OFFICE

300 Woodcleft Avenue, Suite E ♦ Freeport, N.Y. 11520

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Final Minutes

March 9, 2010

L.I. Maritime Museum, West Sayville, NY

Chair: Maureen Dolan Murphy

Vice Chair: Pam Burford

CAC Members Present:

Gil Kelley (Association of Marine Industries)
Florence Sharkey (Brookhaven Bayman's Association)
Judi Bird (Brookhaven League of Women Voters)
John Tanacredi (Dowling College, Earth & Marine Sciences, CEECOM)
Pam Burford (CAC Vice Chair, Fire Island Association)
Joe Kayal (Independent)
Lesley Kane (Islip Town Leaseholders)
Robert DeBona (Mastic Beach Property Owners Association)
Linda Freilich (Sierra Club, L.I. Chapter)
Jim Brown (South Shore Audubon Society)
Ben Sohm (South Shore Bay House Owners Association & South Shore Waterfowlers)
Robert Wilson (Pattersquash Creek Civic Association)
Hank Dam (Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen)
George Costa (Trout Unlimited, Art Flick Chapter)
Arthur Kopelman (CRESLI)

Guests Present:

Nancy Kearney (Town of Oyster Bay)
Phil Blindenhofer (Association of Marine Industries)
Jeff Fullmer (Local Resident)

New York State Department of State Staff Present:

Nancy Rucks (Coastal Resources Specialist II)

CAC Members Absent:

Dan O'Connor (Bellport Students for Environmental Quality)
Don Harris (Captain Don's Nautical Adventures)
Maureen Dolan Murphy (CAC Chair, Citizens Campaign for the Environment)
Larry Merryman (Great South Bay Audubon Society)
Dave Schaper (NY Seafood Council)
Rob Weltner (Operation SPLASH)
Kevin McAllister/Matthew Atkinson (Peconic Baykeeper)
Rich Troy (South Bay Cruising Club)
Curt Matzinger South Shore Waterfowlers Association

1. Called to Order / Introductions

P. Buford called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were several handouts.

2. Approval of January 12, 2010 CAC draft minutes

Unanimously approved.

3. Reports

SSER Office Report

N. Rucks read the SSER Office report:

1. **New Director-** Announcement is being prepared; timeline is 3-4 months from posting
Any questions in the interim contact office, Nancy Kunz, or Fred Anders. FRED.ANDERS@DOS.STATE.NY.US.
2. **Council Meeting** April 29th, 2010 State Office Building Hauppauge.
3. **Bluepoints Bottomlands Council** Office Staff attended meeting February 24. There is some preliminary evidence that the brown tides of the last two years have negatively affected the young seeded clams. All three of the towns have agreed to uniform clamming regulations. Funds are being sought for planning for the future of the clam harvest in Great South Bay.
4. **Dredge Material Management Plan** – Public meetings March 23, 24, 25 *Distribute flyer*. Locations are on the flyer (and SSER web page,) as is the link to the webpage with the draft report and the Project Advisory Committee meeting agendas. (Maureen attended all of these meetings.)
5. **NYSCRIP:** A design team is in place to create signs for East Rockaway, Babylon, and Islip. Layout and design of four signs for East Rockaway is nearly complete. Research, writing, and design of four signs for Babylon is underway. A consultant has been hired to plan a Marine Heritage Trail in Patchogue; once the plan is complete, NYSCRIP projects for Patchogue will be started. The Town of Hempstead has issued an RFP for NYSCRIP signage, and a scoping meeting with Islip is anticipated within the next month.
6. **Nassau County South Shore Blueway/Water Trail:** The Village of Freeport has approved an inter-municipal agreement with the county and signed a contract with the state. The county was expected to approve the inter-municipal agreement yesterday (Monday). The executed contract is expected in a month or so.
7. **Bayway Website:** A web hosting contract has been prepared and submitted to the state.
8. **Town of Oyster Bay Watershed Plans** are progressing: Hard Clam Study – completed; Massapequa Creek Watershed and Corridor Restoration Draft Plan is complete and the Town is in the process of scheduling the public review period. Still in development: Open Space Preservation Plan; Waterfront Development Plan; and, Estuary Public Use and Tourism.
9. **Forge River Watershed, Feasibility Study,** Town of Brookhaven Project Management Plan – completed.
10. **Great Cove Watershed Management Plan,** Town of Islip - in progress.
11. **Patchogue LWRP** Draft completed - moving forward.
12. **LI Traditions** May 2nd Seafood Screening, June 13th Boating with the Baymen, Details on both events are on the SSER Webpage.
13. **LI Maritime Museum** *Priscilla* will be available for group reservations of 15 people.
14. **FINS Science Conference** April 21,22. Link is on the SSER webpage.
15. **Alewife monitoring training sessions** March 14,16,18,22 Details on webpage.
16. **Diadromous Fish Workgroup** meeting is tonight.
17. **Possible SSER participation at other events:** Envirothon Judging - April 28, Walt Whitman Birthplace, Huntington - March 11, Reading between the Lines: Into the American Wilderness Panel member, Marine Ed Day-Town of Oyster Bay -June 4 -Presentation to 4th graders.
18. **Events that are being tabled:** Heckscher Spring Festival - April 25, Farmingdale Health and Wellness - April 26; Dowling College Symposium - April 26, Babylon Earth Day Event - May 1; and, NYSMEA Conference Southampton - June 12.

SSER Chair Report

P. Burford reported there was no separate chair report. M. Dolan Murphy spoke to Fred Anders about finding the CAC administrative support and he reported an outside contractor is being investigated, but it will take time. N. Rucks volunteered to take notes tonight. M. Dolan Murphy and P. Burford will bring the issue up at the next SSER Council meeting. P. Burford reported that a SSER Council meeting has been scheduled in response to the letter written to Secretary of State Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez February 1, 2010.

A heated discussion ensued regarding the lack of administrative support from the SSER office for the CAC. J. Kayal proposed a motion that lacking administrative support to take CAC minutes, the CAC would cease to hold regular bi-monthly meetings. It was acknowledged that administrative support is not a requirement of the SSER legislation and CAC minutes are not

required. The actual cost for administrative support was questioned and thought to be minimal as the CAC only meets six times a year. Some members questioned if this was the State's way to get the CAC to fold. There was a suggestion to tape record meetings and one member volunteered to donate a recorder. The motion proposed by J. Kayal was tabled until after the issue could be raised at the next Council meeting on April 29, 2010.

4. Presentation: Marine Mammals in the Reserve – Artie Kopelman, CRESLI.

A. Koppleman of the Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI) presented a PowerPoint presentation on seals in the south shore estuary. Since the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, there has been an increase in seal population on Long Island's shores. CRESLI's Seal Research Program monitors seal populations and conducts long term behavioral studies of seals around Long Island. This includes regular observations at major haul out sites around Long Island. Population counts over the last 12 years have indicated a dramatic increase in the number of seals utilizing Long Island's waters, as well as a shift in the species composition of the region. Historically, Long Island's seal species typically included Harbor and Grey seals, which are relatively abundant in our waters from late fall until late spring. Threats to seal populations include entanglement, toxins, harassment and predators. Information on these mammals is located on the CRESLI website: [HTTP://WWW.CRESLI.ORG/CRESLI/SEALS/SEALPAGE.HTML](http://www.cresli.org/cresli/seals/sealpage.html)

5. Public Portion/Announcements

Town of Oyster Bay, will hold their annual dune planting at TOBAY Beach on March 20 at 10:00 a.m.

LI Chapter of Sierra Club is recognizing Rob Weltner for his environmental work March 24, 2010. There is going to be a screening of Robert Stone's critically-acclaimed documentary Earth Days: The Seeds of a Revolution at the Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington on April 14, 2010. Details are located at: [HTTP://NEWYORK.SIERRACLUB.ORG/LONGISLAND/NEWSLETTERLATEST.PDF](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland/newsletterlatest.pdf)

Dowling College will host a guest speaker from Italy on volcanoes on April 23, 2010. The event is open to the public. Check the college website for details.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

N. Rucks respectfully submits these notes.