

Association of Owners of Lowlands and Meadows Around Chilmark Pond
Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting
July 10,2022
5-6 p.m.
Held at 3 Osprey Lane

A quorum being present, President Salzman called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

President Salzman thanked the Lewenbergs for hosting the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting

Motion was made to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2021 Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved. No objections or abstentions.

President's Report:

President Salzman referenced her written report which had been distributed. Of major concern was the health of the pond. She mentioned the partnership with the Chilmark Pond Foundation and the progress that is being made toward improving the ecological health of the pond. In order to help the Chilmark Pond Foundation, the Executive Committee of the CPA voted to use \$30,500 to support the CPF's work. The funds will be used to pay for the Marine Biological Lab work to identify the sources of nitrogen in the Pond. This leaves a balance of \$18,077 from the original \$75,000 allocated.

Other issues reported on were the continuation of MV CYANO to monitor toxic cyanobacteria in Chilmark, Tisbury and Edgartown Great Pond.

President Salzman noted that the Martha's Vineyard Commission's Up-Island Water Quality Committee has been working on a "Section 208" report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection. Sheri Caseau will report more on this later in the meeting.

BiodiversityWorks is under contract to monitor several species of protected birds. President Salzman reinforced the need to keep dogs leashed around the protected areas.

Additionally, a new billing system has now been initiated using Stripe through the work of Susie Mottau and Tim DeWitt

She concluded with a plea for people who might be interested in helping with the CPA website to contact her.

Treasurer's Report:

Susie Mottau gave the treasurer's report. She briefly reviewed the information in her written report which had been sent earlier.

She had sent 116 tax bills. To date 105 had paid and there were 11 no pays.

Total revenues= &17,923
Expenses= \$7,153
Bank and Investment Account = \$179,441
There were no questions.

Chilmark Pond Commissioner's Report 2021-2022

Commissioner Martha Cottle reported on the pond openings for the year. She noted that the pond was open from
October 6-20, 2021
January 22-29, 2022
March 29-April 1, 2022

Ms. Cottle referenced the work of Emily Reddington with the Great Pond Foundation and their work on determining the effectiveness of the openings and importance of the duration of the openings.

She also reviewed the current condition of the pond with little rain in April and May and the effect that would have on a successful flush. Not wanting a shallow pond over the summer with higher temperatures of the water, the Commissioners decided to not open the pond again after the April opening.

Executive Committee Election of Officers:

The next agenda item was the election of the Executive Committee. The slate put forward was:

President: Amelia Salzman
Vice President: Andria Jason
Treasurer/Tax Collector: Susie Mottau
Clerk: Kathy Coe
Commissioners: Martha Cottle, Terry Meinelt, Phil Hollinger
Commissioner Emeritus: Steve Lewenberg

Mr. Lewenberg said he liked to see himself as the voice representing the health of the Upper and Middle Ponds and he was pleased to continue as commissioner emeritus.
There were no further nominations.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the slate.
The slate was approved.

Authorization:

Ms. Salzman called for a motion to approve a \$25,000 expenditure by the Executive Committee in case of an emergency. This is an annual renewal of the authorization.

Motion to authorize the Executive Committee to spend up to \$25,000 in case of an emergency.
Motion made and seconded. Motion was approved.

Discussion about phase-out of internal combustion engines on the whole pond

There was discussion regarding a revision of the ban which prohibited internal combustion motors on the middle and upper portions of the Pond that was adopted by the CPA in 1982; Mr. Lewenberg gave a brief history of the 1982 resolution. This is in addition to the Town of Chilmark's decision to limit motorboats on Chilmark Pond to 5 horsepower in 1974. Additional discussion revolved around requiring motors to be converted to electric power. Mr. Milch offered to send out information on solar charges for motors to anyone who asked. There was agreement that the conversion should take place over a three year period and that gas motors would be voluntarily phased out by 2025.

Motion was made to extend the current regulation with the stipulation to cover the entire Chilmark Pond and that in three years' time all motors would be electric powered.

RESOLVED: to extend the 1982 Upper and Middle Pond ban on internal combustion engines to the entirety of Chilmark Pond to be phased in over three years, beginning July 2022 and effective July 2025.

This change will benefit the entire environment of the Pond; we hope that we have given sufficient time for landowners to change to battery- powered engines.

It was noted that there was no real way to enforce this and that no one could be arrested.

Motion made and seconded.
The motion was approved.

Mr. Lewenberg added that the Chilmark Energy Committee was working with the town to change building codes on electrical work to better facilitate solar energy usage. He said this ban was a step in the right direction.

Other Business:

Mr. Hans Solmssen brought up the use of lawn fertilizers which have been shown to impact the water quality of Chilmark Pond and contribute to cyanobacterial blooms.

Ms. Salzman acknowledged the passing of the following Pond Association members:

Sheila Jason
Max McCreery
Corson Ellis
Alan Parke

The business meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Presentations and Updates:

Biodiversity Works:

President Salzman shared the report from BWorks: that there were no successful piping plover hatch this year. There was suspected predation possibly by rats or gulls. A second nest experienced washover and the eggs did not survive, again possibly from predation or the washover event itself.

Martha's Vineyard Commission:

Sheri Caseau and Rachel Sorrentino discussed the current 208 Reports the Commission is working on. They have been compiling data on water quality, measuring dissolved oxygen, salinity and temperature, for example. They have also been monitoring cyanobacteria. The written reports are divided into three parts: management plans, which includes geology and habitat; possible solutions including new technologies for septics and possible benefits of phragmites and openings of the cut; how to monitor water quality as changes are implemented.

They announced that they had just received a grant for 50 septic systems utilizing innovative technology such as add-ons to existing septics and permeable reactive barriers. IA systems have been shown to successfully reduce nitrogen levels. In the Chilmark Pond watershed currently there are not many tight tanks. It is about 50% cesspools and 50% Title Five systems with an additional six IA systems. One other point that was stressed that the septic systems need to be in working order and pumped regularly.

Questions about wigeon grass and Canada geese were asked.

It was pointed out that wigeon grass is a native, submerged grass which likes warmer temperatures and lower salinity. It absorbs nitrogen and can be a sign of a stable pond. Its decay cycle is the negative as it can smother the benthic organisms.

On the issue of Canada geese, farmers are allowed to shoot them and the town could apply for a permit to addle the eggs. Another way to look at geese is that it might be better to have a few resident nesting geese than large flocks flying in.

Chilmark Pond Foundation:

Emily Reddington, Executive Director of the Great Pond Foundation, spoke for the Chilmark Pond Foundation whose mission statement has three main parts: understand current ecology, identify short and long term management strategies, and implement remediation.

The monitoring report is complete and she encouraged people to sign-up on the Chilmark Pond Foundation website to receive the regular newsletters and the report. As part of their ongoing

water testing, they run the MVCYANO program that is coordinated with the Chilmark Board of Health. Ms. Reddington acknowledged the help of Marina Lent, the Chilmark Town Health Agent.

Testing began in May of 2021 and continues. In general the salinity is consistently low, the water clarity is poor and nitrogen levels are elevated; overall the pond is becoming hypoxic (lacking oxygen). Like all other water bodies Chilmark Pond is a living system. Commissioner Cottle's report of the total of 41 days of Pond flushing is good news. The flushing helps the overall health of the pond. In addition, the proposed dredging project will increase the flow of ocean water into the pond and, we hope, will increase the duration of the openings. The permit is currently being reviewed by the state. Beyond testing water from the pond, CPF is beginning to look at the land in the entire watershed which extends as far as Middle Road for possible point sources of nitrogen. The CPF engaged the Marine Biological Lab (thanks to support from the CPA) and their isotope study showed that septic systems are the primary contributors of nitrogen in Chilmark Pond. We will continue to work with the MBL next season to deepen that work by looking for nitrogen hot spots, study the geological conditions around the Pond and sampling groundwater. We should have a report in six to eight months.

Ms. Reddington engaged in a lengthy question and answer session and concluded by saying the Chilmark Pond Foundation's work is ongoing.

Presentations ended at 6:19 p.m.

Submitted by:
Kathy Coe
Clerk