

**Suffolk County Legislature**  
**Marine Industry & Restoration Task Force**  
**Minutes of Tuesday, October, 23, 2018.**  
**Clerk of Legislature's Conference Room, Hauppauge, N.Y.**

**Committee Members Present:** *Debra Montaruli; Tom Kehoe; Eric Kreuter; Vincent Biondo; Diane LaChapelle; Susan A. Berland; Roger Evans; Kim Lamiroult; August Ruckdeschel; Chris Pickerell; Kristen Jarnagin, DuWayne Gregory*

**Staff Members Present:** *Lora Gellerstein; Christina DeLisi; Derek Stein.*

**Committee Members Absent:** *David Wicks; Dr. Shaun McKay; Vincent Pesce; Gilbert Anderson; Al Krupski.*

**Introductions:**

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., starting off with introductions of each of the members present.

**Review of August 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes:**

The August 21, 2018 meeting minutes were distributed and accepted as presented. Tom Kehoe made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Kristen Jarnagin. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Industry Specific Issues Discussion:**

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked the task force to go around the table and let everyone speak on issues or areas of concern in their particular fields. The discussion could then be brought back together to help form subcommittees which he said would work toward creating the mission of the task force.

August Ruckdeschel started by informing the task force about a recent State level bill introduced by Assemblyman Fred Thiele and Senator Kenneth LaValle creating the Seafood Advisory Task Force. He noted that fishermen, New York Agri-markets, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and others were present at the third meeting which was held in Riverhead. August noted that the first meeting did not have great representation from the fishing industry but the most recent meeting had more fishing industry representatives, especially from shellfish growers, with more fishermen in the room. He informed everyone that he divided his time between two topics, one being soft cost ways to help the

industry and the other being hard cost infrastructure ways to help the industry. The soft costs he thinks would be beneficial include marketing in the seafood industry itself, with the hopes of getting people to buy locally. He stated that New York has the best managed fisheries in the world by a long shot, but that we still import 91% of our seafood. August noted that Long Island waters have a sustainable crop of Scup, Dogfish, and Bluefish species that could be marketed more. He recalls that part of the Choose LI Campaign which he participating in was to help and direct people to put more of their budget and resources to purchasing local seafood. He reminded them that while agriculture is fantastic and there is a local market, it has not translated over into the aquaculture industry, which he describes as a challenge and an opportunity. August stated a real sustained marketing effort to highlight local scallops, baymen and fishermen and to have people go to their local fish market and ask what is locally landed and what is in season right now. August noted that it takes creative marketing and promotion but that it is a soft cost that would be worth evaluating. On the hard cost side, August spoke about investing in infrastructure to enable more shellfish aquaculture, whether it be a processing and storing facility, or restoring dockside infrastructure that is already out there. He looked at the Farmland Preservation Program there is no equivalent for commercial fishing. There are docks used for commercial fishing that are at risk of being bought out and used for other purposes. When that infrastructure disappears, it is gone forever due to the high cost of buying these spots back on Long Island. August believes this is an opportunity to come up with an equivalent program to the farmland protection project, or establish a means of doing so. He has mentioned it to the State as something to protect the agricultural industry, local tourism, a heritage industry, and local fish, while providing access to healthy food. He stated that while we have lost some of that infrastructure when it comes to processing seafood and in terms of marketing, if there is a way to see if that infrastructure can be recreated, we should invest and consider it as a viable long term strategy.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked August Ruckdeschel to speak about the Aquaculture Lease Program. August Ruckdeschel started off by explaining that the Aquaculture Lease Program was started back in 2009. The Suffolk County Legislature created the Aquaculture Lease Program to lease up to 600 acres of 10 acre shellfish leases within Peconic Bay and Gardiner's Bay within the course of ten years. He informed the task force that the program is currently in year eight of which 480 acres are leased of those 600 acres so far. He noted that not all of the 480 acres are currently active leases. August then unfurls a map of the program detailing existing leased areas. He said that we always seem to get influxes of leases in certain areas. Tom Kehoe commented the reason being is that the areas closest to shore are easier to work, compared to a deep water lease which is hard to work. Areas close to the shore do not take a large boat to work. August Ruckdeschel said that they cannot lease out areas within 1000 meters of the shore. August noted that there is a large area that is thrown out due to the area being environmentally viable; while they have a process if an applicant requests a lease. Applicants go to the Application Lease Board, of which he is a member, where they vote on the eligibility of whether the area can be leased. Which a key component of it is whether an area is already

environmentally viable for commercial fishing without the need for the lease by baymen fishing for scallops, to prevent any disruption of that existing area. August noted that the more recent worry has been the leasing of certain areas, such as Napeague Bay, the islands around Shelter Island and other recreational zones. He noted that we are up to the Aquaculture Lease Program Ten Year Review, which re-evaluates where the leases have been placed. Providing an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to weigh in and develop what the future of the program will look like. The first meeting he noted is supposed to be at the Cornell Cooperative Extension. He noted there is an outreach opportunity regardless, the origin of the program laid with the State turning over control of the lease areas for economic development and specifically for shellfish restoration, which was handed over to Suffolk County for shellfish aquaculture. August noted that he and Chris Pickerell have done a research study on kelp cultivation, but it is currently just a research pilot program. Since it is just a proposed program, and because of the need for wave action and a water depth of about 15 feet, they are looking at a different area to the east. The program as it exists is very cost-effective for the lessee, especially when compared to a similar program offered by the Town of Islip. He noted that just because you get a lease from the County does not mean you get a lease from the State, and you also need a lease from the Army Corps of Engineers and approval for a spot from the US Coast Guard, which is based on navigational hazards. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked if that review process is about to begin and if people can go and submit their comments. August Ruckdeschel replied that it is and that the idea is to only lease out 60 acres per year. However, the legislation allowed leases that did not go through to still be leased out and used for future years. Tom Kehoe stated that it is misleading for someone who doesn't live out on the water, but you can make a living off a five to ten acre lease. August Ruckdeschel replied that it is also very good for the environment, given that shellfish will clean up naturally and filter the water from harmful nitrogen, which he noted is a fertilizer free solution to the problem, as it is cleaning the water itself at a rate of roughly 50 gallons of water per day. Tom Kehoe asked how many leaseholders are in the County now? August Ruckdeschel responded that there are currently 405 acres out, 128 acres of late-lease acreage pending execution, and also existing oyster grants that were grandfathered into the program. Tom Kehoe asked how many people, to which Roger Evans replies that it is probably just that number divided by 10, so roughly 40-50 people. August Ruckdeschel finds that there are about 61 including those grandfathered in from oyster grants, which is not divided between pending and active. Lora Gellerstein asked if the County helps them with the permit process. August Ruckdeschel replied that is basically what DeWitt Davies and Susan Filipovich's office does, they are the administrators of the programs and help with outreach to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Lora Gellerstein then asked where the County advertises this program and August Ruckdeschel replied that they issue public notices, there is really strong word of mouth for the program and since he has been involved there have always been more applicants than leases available. Which they have handled with a lottery system, even though it is just a double-random draw. Tom Kehoe adds that he thinks it is a wonderful program that the County started, and that at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Suffolk County leased out the whole bottom of Peconic Bay, which was even on the tax map. Every acre was taxed, and that

as the oyster industry fell on hard times, and companies left the industry, families would tend to simply not pay taxes which resulted in the property to be returned back to the County. Tom stated that the grants that August Ruckdeschel was talking about are just those grandfathered in who never gave up this property and continued to pay the nominal taxes on it. He stated that it is something that could be a revenue source if the whole area was leased off again, and that the entire program is a great way for the County to blow its own horn, even though people are not aware of it. August Ruckdeschel informed the task force that they could include the recreational boat industry, and stated that they wish to communicate more with that industry moving forward. Eric Kreuter responded that he just wants to make sure that the fishing apparatuses are underwater and is not a surface apparatus for shellfish and that everything is done properly. He also remembered that the initial map the boating industry saw was almost the whole Peconic Bay, although he knows that wasn't true. It was an initial concern that the industry had. Tom Kehoe added that when they did lease the whole of Peconic Bay it was exclusively the bottom with no floating apparatus. Eric Kreuter stated that we still have some leased out areas on the bottom of the bay. Tom Kehoe responded for the benefit of everyone at the table most of it is now floating cages which is a significant concern for recreational boating and was not the case years ago. Chris Pickerell added there is a subset of floating cages but most of the lease program's fishing apparatuses are on the bottom, at least 80% without counting buoys. Eric Kreuter recalled that at previous roundtables one would be crazy to have their equipment floating since it invites a whole host of issues, such as birds, so most of them now have it on the bottom. Tom Kehoe then stated that the reason we are not planting oysters back on the bottom is public outcry from constituents in Legislator Susan A. Berland's former position in the Town of Huntington and from the Town of Oyster Bay where there is a group of hand-raking clammers and oystermen who want no aquaculture of any type. The commercial fishermen and the remaining Peconic baymen, at least those who get scalps, do not like this, but the happy medium is that they will not place it directly on the bottom, giving them room on the seafloor. Tom felt that if Suffolk County went back to the old system of taxing and leasing the bottom directly, some of these leaseholders would take their shellfish right out of the cages and put them on the bottom.

August Ruckdeschel then unfurled the original map from the program. He explained that it is the universe of all portions of Peconic Bay that can be leased, although they aren't allowed to lease all of them as they are capped at 60 acres total currently. He noted it looks like it covers all of Peconic Bay, but it is actually a tiny subsection of what can actually be leased out. Roger Evans will follow up and said that access to the water is a topic that is worth talking about for these smaller mom-and-pop fishers who need a boat slip to keep their skiff or boat. In some cases they would need a land-based upweller and noted that they like to buy the smallest oysters since they are the cheapest and as they grow become more expensive, with an upweller facilitating growth. He noted an upweller system takes up the space of a couple tables, while floating upweller requires space on the water and a boat slip. Chris Pickerell explained that kelp farming is currently being researched and that it would require some changes to County and State law to get started. He noted there is no conflict as kelp is a winter crop grown when recreational boaters

are not on the water. He stated they help with permitting and many of those who are growing oysters start with their SPAT program before moving on to grow their own oysters. They will first meet to discuss water quality, location, depth, sediment, and texture at a site and also work directly with August Ruckdeschel and the Planning Department.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory then asked Eric Kreuter if he had anything to add Eric Kreuter stated that on behalf of the Association of Marine Industries they would work on each subcommittee. He also informed the task force that Vincent Pesce could not attend but they would be interested in sitting on each of the groups and reporting back to each of their shareholders to let them know what is being developed.

Roger Evans from the NYSDEC, stated that they have received information on the permit process for aquaculture and hope to have other staff who work more directly with that process. Roger feels that the NYSDEC representative should also sit on one of the working groups to get more involved. He stated that they could even help directly with the permits and asked if they would need that. Chris Pickerell responded that so far they have not, since it is one blanket permit for all 70 they will need in the next year. Diane LaChapelle asked why they would need 70 grants, to which Roger Evans said that they are all over Suffolk and even Nassau, so that the labor gets fairly intense so they have volunteers come in and help out along with the State grant provided labor per the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Tom Kehoe mentioned that they also have the hatcheries too. Roger Evans responded that there was also a grant to municipal governments for hatcheries, which went to Islip, Easthampton, and Hempstead. Tom Kehoe asked if Hempstead had a hatchery, and Chris Pickerell responded that they got it for shellfish. Eric Krueter responded he recalled Gil Anderson explaining how he grew up in Babylon and clammed in the Great South Bay, and how he remembered the decline of that industry. Tom Kehoe asked why Hempstead got money for a hatchery. Eric Krueter responded that he was wondering why Babylon didn't get it since they already had a project going and since there were already commercial fishers in the town.

Eric Kreuter said that structures in or near the water also play a role, and that extra staff helps out with that. He responded that he has long been concerned about water quality in Babylon, and how storm drains are a major issue along the South Shore. He remembers people throwing waste in the canals. He noted that as the clams disappeared in the late 1970's, fertilizer and landscaping chemicals became more common. He said that water quality issue is a major concern, along with infrastructure. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory mentioned that the County Executive has taken water quality on as a signature issue, and how they have reached out to the environmental groups for a funding source to work on a couple programs in the next year. He explained how they have worked with Superstom Sandy funds to construct storm drains and created the Septic Tank Replacement Pilot Program, which is still a long term goal due to the 350,000 homes in Suffolk County with cesspools, and given that the replacement costs \$20,000 each and that the \$10,000,000 in state grants is not nearly enough. He also noted that there will be a referendum providing a funding source in January which would help address that issue. Eric

Kreuter closed by noting that run-off from the canals causing sediment build-up in the canals is a frequent complaint. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory mentioned that the issue there is finding where to put all of that sediment. He then asked Debra Montaruli if she could speak on the issue.

Debra Montaruli said that from an education perspective there is a shortage of boat mechanics, and that BOCES has had a program for marine tech for the past 15 years. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked how does someone become familiar with the program, how robust is it and how many students do they have? Debra Montaruli replied first that it is an adult education program in the evenings, and that they have a pamphlet that goes out every six months to individuals in the Western Suffolk area and there are thousands of copies that go out. She said it is hit or miss, and that the program was spearheaded by Eric and Conrad Kreuter, and was similar to a program at Kingsborough Community College. She then passed out the information on the Marine Tech Program. She noted that the issue is just in marketing the program and that in September the program was supposed to start but did not have enough enrollees. Tom Kehoe then asked if woodshop is still taught in schools. Eric Kreuter replied that families are pressured to send their children to college even though not everyone is qualified for it he thinks there will not only be a shortage of boat mechanics but a shortage of electricians and plumbers as well. He remembers telling his kids that if he wanted to become a trade worker, thinking they'll be rich since most of the focus is now onto training kids to work on computers instead and going to college. He said that there needs to be more emphasis to encourage high school students to stop and think about going into a trade school. At Kingsborough Community College his father will help to start an apprenticeship program where a student goes to work four days a week and one day at school, giving the student a four-year education, with an AAS degree and is a true journeyman. He said they are just waiting for the green light from the New York State Department of Labor but he thinks that it could strike a balance where a parent can say their child can go to college while getting a trade skill.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked if it's just the mechanics or boat builders? Eric Kreuter responded that it's not boat builders as they are cost prohibitive and most of the jobs are located in the south. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked where the need is and what jobs are there. Eric Kreuter replied that it is in the marinas and boatyards as mechanics. He said that these jobs are mostly doing maintenance on the boat for recreational boating, while there are yard positions that do things such as painting and gas pumping amongst other tasks. Eric noted that marinas offer money making tasks but that there is a need for someone to do the work efficiently and quickly, so marinas are always looking for work. He also noted briefly how there is a whole new fleet of ferries in New York City, which go from Far Rockaway to Manhattan and as far out to Glen Cove, which will need captains, mechanics and deckhands, and that there is a demand there. He noted that Richter Shipbuilding in Mamaroneck has generally had an unchanging, aging workforce and is one of the firms that is involved with the new ferry system. Diane LaChapelle noted that she thinks she can keep the Education and Workforce subcommittee because at the Labor department they have seen other industries with similar issues and have held very successful career fairs. She also noted that there is federal money that could be granted

to smaller firms for wage reimbursement. Diane thinks the Labor Department, Eric Kreuter, and BOCES would work well together. She feels if the Labor Department had been contacted about BOCES not being able to put together a class they could have assisted since they could market the class. August Ruckdeschel asked how much does a marine technician makes, Eric Kreuter replied that they would start at an hourly rate of \$15 to \$20 dollar. Top-technicians would make \$40 to \$50 an hour based on skill. August Ruckdeschel said that information could be put it in the pamphlet in case there is someone who has no idea about the industry but could see the salary scale and realize it is paying more than other industries. Eric Kreuter also noted they tend to pay on a flat rate. Diane LaChapelle stated the Department of Labor has a contract with BOCES where unemployed people can come into the Department of Labor if they are transferring into a different industry and the Labor Department help pay for individuals to go back to school. Debra Montaruli replied that they have been marketing it at high schools had a number of conference calls with guidance counselors, and have even tried to change the name in order to try and get them to steer more students in this direction. She noted that people often go to college and find they can't get a job. A trade could offer skills and opportunity that would help them. Legislator Susan A. Berland asked about boating clubs, such as the Greater Huntington Boating Council, a group of 20-30 boating clubs and if they could reach out with the information on this program. Chris Pickerell asked if marinas already had information. Debra Montaruli replied that they can contact these clubs.

Tom Kehoe mentioned that the study group that Senator LaValle and Assemblyman Thiele sponsored will host a few meetings throughout the state and it is not a duplication of efforts but rather a validation of how this is an issue that comes off at multiple levels. He recalls that the marine industry has traditionally referred any issues they had to the NYSDEC. He compared this policy with police stating you do not go to the police to change the law. He suggested the industry turn to policymakers who can change the law. Tom said that policy and marketing programs aren't a concern at NYSDEC. He feels they shouldn't be preparing marketing programs. Roger Evans replied that they don't help with that and focus on permits and quotas.

August Ruckdeschel pointed out that New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets already is devoted to marketing and advocating for agriculture in the state, but that there is no equivalent for aquaculture. He said there is a regulatory agency, but no state level proponent. While at the county level it is probably just himself, launching Choose LI this year. However, there is no funding available for that, making it hard to do any kind of marketing beyond word of mouth and any press coverage highlighting local fisheries or marinas. Chris Pickerell said that underutilized species are an opportunity, since regulations take a long time to change but Long Island does have sustainable species and there could be more effort bringing to land with higher demand. He noted how these fish, including Porgy are good to eat, but there just isn't a market for them and aren't commonly used in sushi or other restaurants.

Tom Kehoe said that he thinks we should form some kind of quasi-governmental organization that could reach out to all of Long Island's seafood producers and restaurants.

Kristen Jarnigan said that proposal reminds her of Discover Long Island. She brought some information including their Annual Report which deals with tourism and assets. Tom Kehoe asked if they are able to get grants from the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council. Kristen Jarnigan replied that they can and are a priority project. August Ruckdeschel stated grants are announced in December. Tom Kehoe asked if Discover Long Island is a private group or a non-profit and Kristen Jarnigan replied that they are a private-non-profit, contracted by both counties and funded by a Hotel Tax of the 3% tax, they get 20% while 80% goes to both counties for various projects. Tom Kehoe asked how much they get a year. Kristen Jarnigan replied that as of 2013 they are supposed to get 24% but are capped at \$2 million a year from Suffolk County to promote tourism in Suffolk County with another \$1 million from Nassau County, giving them a budget of just over \$3 million all of Long Island. Tom Kehoe stated \$3 million dollars would go a long way for the marine industry in Suffolk County. Kristen Jarnigan replied that they haven't seen an increase since 2013. She then passed out the REDC for the organization including August Ruckdeschel's Choose Long Island program. She added that she recently was at Farmingdale State College where they did a study showing that the marine industry generates \$2.4 billion for the region each year. She suggested that the ocean economy would grow faster if an effort was made to promote it, including leisure boats and touring boats. She suggested that a Long Island REDC grant would help immensely. Tom Kehoe then asked who put together Discover Long Island. Kristen Jarnigan responded that it is forty years old and rebranded two years ago. Tom Kehoe asked where they could get the money for this Kristen Jarnigan responded that they have a few ideas, including removing the cap, noting how Galveston, Texas spends \$8 to \$10 million per year. Chris Pickerell asked if they help with I Love New York. Kristen responded they do and that they have been working with New York City's tourism organization to promote internationally in order to put Long Island on the map. She suggested lifting the cap on income from Suffolk County and mentioned their advocacy for a convention center at the Ronkonkoma Hub, which she suggested could be a 100,000 square foot facility, with 5,000 average attendees per conference. She suggested that the bed tax on Long Island is too low, and noted that other regions, such as Washington D.C. have a higher bed tax. Kristen conceded that getting a tax increase on Long Island is extremely difficult. She then suggested a tourism improvement district would set aside funding directly for promotion. She also suggested a mobile app for Choose Long Island, which would need marketing but could help promote local businesses. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked how the tourism improvement district could be done. Kristen Jarnigan replied that it depends on the attorneys as there is no specific prohibition against counties. Explaining it as being law just applies it towards tourism. Tom Kehoe responded that it would just mean more money for them and would not help out the marine industry. August Ruckdeschel said that he doesn't agree with that saying it would have an indirect impact on fishing with a direct impact on the marine industry. Kristen Jarnigan noted that they are a membership organization. Membership costs about \$300 eliminating many small restaurants and fishing charters that they would like to promote while they have an interest in representing everyone. She suggested that proper funding would open the doors to many small businesses. August Ruckdeschel asked why some east end towns have a tourism marketing district. Kristen Jarnigan responded that they do

that to ensure that all of the money goes directly to promotion and to stop it from being siphoned off onto capital projects. She then suggested a \$2 per night fee rather than a percentage, with \$1 going to capital projects, and \$1 going to promotion. She said that she is looking at some kind of tourism promotion increase, as currently Suffolk County puts in \$2 dollars for Nassau County's \$1.

Tom Kehoe stated that the fishing industry is very disparate, noting Western Suffolk has baymen, and some pleasure boaters, but no other commercial fishing industry. While in Eastern Suffolk a larger commercial fishing industry exists at Montauk, Shinnecock Bay, and Greenport, alongside the Aquaculture Lease Program. He noted the two groups tend to keep to themselves, with the fishermen being most worried about the wind farm, access to docks to unload their catch and boat repairs. He noted that since New York City restaurants tend not to serve their fish and that changing that thought would go far and said that incentivizing restaurants to be aware of local fish is important. Tom Kehoe noted the Aquaculture Lease Program is totally separate and it takes about a year to get all the permits ready. He stated that we need to promote this program as well. Tom recalled how that alone can help change people's opinions, and possibly alleviate the labor shortage issue: If they just promote their 400-500 acres, it could make a name for itself like how the wine industry on Long Island started. August Ruckdeschel mentioned how the Hargrave Winery was taken over by the Borghese's (Castello di Borghese Winery) and they and the Long Island Oyster Association will be shucking oysters at the Long Island Marathon.

Kristen Jarnigan added that visits generated over \$300 million for Suffolk County and \$700 million for the region at large. which she suggested could help solve the issue of keeping Long Island taxes down by bringing more outside revenue in. She recalled that an economic impact study of the convention center suggested that it would add \$122 million in revenues.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked Vincent Biondo if he has anything to add from the town's perspective. Vincent Biondo responded that he represents the Suffolk County Town Supervisor's Association, and noted that his title at the Town of Babylon is Bay Manager, and the main concern he hears is with the dredging of canals and the permitting process. He recalls that they currently have a project where the only issue is where to put the spoil from the canal. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory mentioned how the concern there is just getting the permits and the funding to allow for more dredging to take place, along with the spoil. Eric Kreuter mentioned how there is a big issue with where to put the intercostal spoils. Vincent Biondo stated that they will start dredging the Fire Island Inlet soon, and will assembly the machinery to do so in the next month, which will also add beach to Fire Island and Gilgo Beach. He agreed with August Ruckdeschel's idea of having a Farmland's Protection Program but for commercial fishing and thinks it's a great idea.

### **Subcommittee Discussion:**

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory said that he thinks everyone has had many of great ideas and moved on to the discussion of subcommittees. He mentioned how they thought it would be a good idea to have an Environmental Subcommittee focusing on water quality, dredging, and assorted issues; an Education and Workplace Development Subcommittee to look at trying to steer people into these kind of jobs and more broadly to obtain trade skills. He stated that he thinks it is important especially if the industry itself doesn't have the workforce to maintain our equipment. He then spoke about the Commercial Fishing Subcommittee, and finally the Economic Development Committee, which he thinks would be a shared interest since if everything is done right, it would result in a boom for the entire industry. He recalls how he was fishing out in Quogue at Orient Point, but that more promotion must be done. Chris Pickerell then asked if aquaculture can be combined into the Commercial Fishing Subcommittee or if it should be separate, to which Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory responded he agrees it can be combined.

Lora Gellerstein asked if the Aquaculture Lease Program Ten Year Review is in need of a place to meet on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 August Ruckdeschel responded that they have had a number of issues at the Cornell Extension building and now are looking to have it in Riverhead Town Hall, Lora Gellerstein and Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory both suggest holding it at the Riverhead Auditorium. August Ruckdeschel noted that it is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and Debra Montaruli asked how many people would be attending. August Ruckdeschel responded that he does not know, since it's the first meeting.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory asked if anyone has any thoughts on a public forum and whether it would be through subcommittees, or the whole committee. Would there be meetings with organizations or individuals. Tom Kehoe noted that east end commercial fishermen were looking to have a public forum and remembers that the Bylaws say that they can get three members to petition for a public hearing.

### **Questions / Comments:**

Lora Gellerstein mentioned briefly that they had a really good meeting with Suffolk County Community College about workforce development and in helping the task force, where they were all in and ecstatic about the proposal. She explained that this meeting was why they had to postpone the last Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council meeting.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory then asked if there are any proposed dates for the next meeting. Derek Stein responded that the next meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 2018, at 2:00pm.

Debra Montaruli asked if we should have the meeting after the Ten Year Review Meeting and if there is anything they think will come out of that meeting. August Ruckdeschel responded that he didn't think so since he wouldn't be able to attend the meeting.

Derek Stein then asked briefly how we will organize the subcommittees and their schedules, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory responded that someone will reach out and poll everyone about which subcommittees they wish to participate in. Lora Gellerstein responded that the first meeting of the subcommittees will be scheduled before the next meeting.

With no further business, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Minutes Compiled by Derek Stein.