

**East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2014**

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Mark Christiansen, Member
Penny Heller, Member
Marvin Schutt, Member
Tom Kalal, Member
Ron Nichols, Alternate (seated)
Laura Ashburn, Alternate

Absent: Tom Kalal, Member

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex Officio

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Feb 19, 2014 AT 3:50 AM/PM
K. Christiansen, Clerk
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Call to Order

Chairman Carlson called the February 12, 2014 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Additions to the Agenda – none.

II. Public Delegations – none.

III. Minutes

A. Minutes of January 8, 2013

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2013 was deferred to the March Regular Meeting.

IV. New Business – none.

V. Old Business

A. Nature of East Lyme Programs

i. Foot Paths (Update)

Chairman Carlson reported that the President's Council at Yale was briefed regarding the Foot Paths. It was a positive meeting in which the Council approved the Agreement. It was confirmed that the 20-year lease agreement is now complete and signed by all parties. A copy of the map accompanying the agreement was distributed.

In response to Mr. Christiansen's inquiry regarding access to the open space at Darrow Pond, Chairman Carlson stated it is hoped that, in the future, the 200 acre parcel will be added the current 100 acres of open space, with caveats. He has asked Mr. Kalal to head a Friends of Darrow Pond Sub-committee. A notice would be published in the paper inviting the citizens of the Town to join and take part in the discussions thereby incorporating the public's interests into its final plan. The Sub-committee will also be advantageous for the Parks & Recreation Commission as well as High School students who are studying the workings of a governmental committee.

ii. Water Quality Town Wide Report

Ms. Heller reported that the preliminary results of the RBV testing conducted during the Fall 2013 indicate that the water quality is deteriorating. The Four Mile River, The Pattagansett River, and Cranberry Meadow have all degraded one point from the previous year's testing. It was noted that both the Four Mile River and Cranberry Meadow had low water flow at the time of the testing.

Meghan Ruta of DEEP is planning to meet with various groups to discuss changes to the program, how to maximize site selection, present new materials, and the photographing of sites. Ms. Heller will coordinate the Commission's meeting with Ms. Ruta.

iii. Samuel Smith House Status

An editorial was recently published in *The Day* newspaper crediting the Town for recognizing the value of the property and noting the importance of seizing this opportunity to create a cultural link highlighting the region's rich history and architecture for both the citizens and tourists, alike.

Mr. Carlson felt that an economic study regarding the value of tourism comparing the numbers of visitors to various tourist attractions and their resulting income would be a valuable tool for promoting such historical establishments.

iv. Open Space Plan – map & text updates

Chairman Carlson reported that, with the help of an intern who is working on the GIS, the Open Space Plan is progressing and hopes that the GIS mapping will be completed by the Commission's regular meeting in March.

In response to Mr. Nichols' question regarding the re-writing of the Plan, Chairman Carlson stated that he has added land and an appendix regarding the Town Survey reflecting the citizens concern for their water quality.

B. Discussion regarding Woodsmen's Trust open space proposal

It was determined that the 47 acres of the Darrow Ridge parcel meets three (3) of the eight (8) characteristics of Open Space and that the area will be recommended for state funding.

MOTION (1): Motion made by Marvin Schutt, seconded by Penny Heller, for Chairman Carlson to send a letter on behalf of the Commission approving the Woodsmen's Land Trust Open Space Proposal. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion passed.

C. 2014-15 Budget Memorandum

Chairman Carlson reported that the following was added to the Commission's budget proposal:

- 1) Line item of \$900.00 for the Agricultural Sub-committee
Mr. Christiansen confirmed that the \$900.00 for the Agri-business Committee will cover the estimated costs for the annual trail ride.
- 2) An additional \$200.00 for printing costs, making the total \$400.00
- 3) Proposal to add a line item for a \$250,000.00 Open Space Capital Improvement Fund. This will enable the Commission to apply for grants requiring matching funds. The December 2007 Open Space Report Survey, which reflects the citizens' concerns, will be included to the proposal as an addendum.

MOTION (1): Motion made by Penny Heller, seconded by Marvin Schutt, to submit the budget request. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Christiansen noted the deletion of the Agri-business Committee Report from the Agenda. He stated that the Agri-business Committee aims to increase the Committee's web presence, which is currently difficult to find/search. An individual has volunteered to photograph the farms in Town for the website as well as create a booklet, pamphlet, and/or calendar featuring the farms in East Lyme. Ms. Ashburn suggested the creation of a powerpoint presentation for the school which she can present to the students and their parents. The project, he suspects, will take at least one year to complete. Chairman Carlson requested he also photograph the three historical places. Mr. Christiansen also reported that one of his customers has photographs of 50-60 birds in East Lyme, which he also aims to include on the website. Mr. Schutt will be speaking with Carmen Ames regarding the posting of these images on the East Lyme website. Mr. Nichols suggested the inclusion of the mapping of the farms in addition to the photographs.

VI. Reports and Communications

A. Communications — None.

B. Chairman's Report

Chairman Carlson requested the Commission's aid in creating a report regarding the entire water supply of East Lyme, including a map of the watersheds, the location of the aquifers, and various data and reports, for the Town. The report will discuss the current state of water and the current and potential threats in a laymen-friendly manner. He plans to present the Commission with an outline at the March meeting. Based on the outline,

each member will be given a task to complete for inclusion in the report, which he aims to complete by May 2014.

Ms. Ashburn suggested following the format of the EPA's website regarding watersheds.

C. Ex-Officio

Ms. Hardy urged members of the Commission to attend an informational meeting next Tuesday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. when Gateway Commons will be discussing the construction of a 1,750 car parking lot. She reported that the Zoning Commission has approved the proposed development of the 253 residential units prior to the commercial properties due the recession. It is presumed that the parking lot being proposed will be to accommodate the proposed Costco. The agenda for the meeting has been posted on the website and maps are available to the public.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion (3): Motion made by Penny Heller, seconded by Mark Christiansen, to adjourn the February 12, 2014 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:34 p.m. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Acting Recording Secretary for the Town of East Lyme