

East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2014

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller, Member
Tom Kalal, Member
Mark Christansen, Member
Marvin Schutt, Member
Laura Ashburn, Alternate

Absent: Ron Nichols, Alternate

Also Present: John Ellis
Steve Harney
Jeff Torrance

Call to Order. Chairman Carlson called the January 8, 2014 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources to order at 7:01 p.m. Alternate Laura Ashburn was asked to be seated.

I. Additions to the Agenda.

MOTION (1): Mr. Kalal moved to add Agriculture Business Subcommittee under Old Business, item v. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (4-0) Unanimous

MOTION (2): Mr. Kalal moved to place Election of Officers under Reports, item D. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (4-0) Unanimous

II. Public Delegations. There were no guests at this time.

III. Minutes.

A. Minutes of December 11, 2013. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the December 11, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The following correction was noted: Mr. Christiansen asked that the Agriculture Business Subcommittee be added to future agendas.

MOTION (3): Ms. Heller moved to accept the December 11, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for

**the Conservation of Natural Resources, as amended.
Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. Mr. Kalal abstained from
voting. (2-0-1) Motion carried.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion regarding Woodsmen's Trust open space proposal. Mr. Carlson reported that this Commission developed an Open Space Plan based on open space being valuable. He showed the Open Space Plan proposed footpaths; major watershed and aquifers and natural resources elements considered.

Mr. Ellis, Chairman of the Woodsmen's Trust asked this Commission for support on the Darrow 47 affordable housing units. He stated we will request a grant based on the appraisal of the 47 units. The property is located above the Darrow Pond property and is located in the Pattagansett watershed.

Mr. Harney gave Commission members copy of Memo dated September 15, 2005 to Wayne Fraser from Meg Parulis regarding acceptance of open space lands associated with the Nottingham Hills and Darrow's Ridge Subdivisions, as well as map of Route 11 Greenway Planning Area property status.

Mr. Harney reported we asked for a letter of support one year ago for the Gurley Brook piece in the Niantic River watershed, and we were awarded a grant. The state has another grant application that needs to be submitted in March. The new parcel is the 47 acres of the Darrow Ridge parcel. We do not want to miss submitting the grant application.

Mr. Ellis stated we can help manage forest and wildlife. He would like to apply for a grant for this property. Mr. Carlson asked what is the state of your easement on the property? Mr. Ellis replied there is a Woodsmen Land Conservation Easement on it. Ms. Heller asked what is your plan for the 47 acres? Mr. Ellis replied to be all open space. When the state awards an application it cannot be developed. It needs to be used for passive recreation. He was asked who owns the 47 acres? Mr. Ellis replied NE National. Mr. Kalal asked do you plan to do forest management? Mr. Ellis replied the Woodsmen Land Trust says it cannot do forestry. Mr. Carlson referred to the Rt. 11 map the Commission was given and asked who were the owners of the properties identified? Mr. Ellis replied he owns 400 and Mr. Harney owns 200.

Mr. Torrence agreed if you look at the aquifer map it is in the Pattagansett watershed. It was called Smith Hill which was all farm land. Mr. Kalal stated it is good farmland. We have done a number of test holes with Ledge Light on the property. Mr. Kalal asked why are they joined together? Mr. Ellis replied I have spent 20 years on protecting land. Mr. Haney stated each stands on its own.

Ms. Ashburn felt the Commission needs to determine if the 47 acres meet our Open Space Plan?

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Nature of East Lyme Programs.

i. Foot Paths (Update). Mr. Carlson informed the Commission Yale signed off on the Trail Conservation License Agreement.

On December 13 Mr. Carlson walked with the Eight Mile River organization on the middle third of the trail.

ii. Water Quality Town Wide Report. Ms. Heller received a copy of the USGS November 22, 2013 estimated nitrogen list. The Town is in watershed #62. There are 26 watersheds that feed into the sound. Of the 26 we are considered West Thames drainage area of twenty-six square miles. We are the seventh lowest for agricultural land. We are the seventh highest for forest wetland. Seven percent is impervious cover.

Commission member Marvin Schutt arrived.

Ms. Heller stated our nitrogen level is lower. Surface water quality decreases as we go north to south.

Mr. Kalal asked if she had the results from the rapid bio? She replied she received an email that they would like photos of the sites.

Mr. Kalal stated we have had two dry years in a row.

iii. Samuel Smith House Status. Mr. Schutt reported the three historical entities in Town and farmers met at the Niantic Community Church to exchange ideas at a potluck supper.

iv. Open Space Plan-map & text updates. Mr. Carlson reviewed the new Open Space Plan with Commission members.

Commission member Mr. Christiansen arrived.

v. Agriculture Business Subcommittee. Mr. Christiansen reported they did not meet in December. We had a potluck dinner with all preservation groups and exchanged ideas.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Communications. There was no communications received.

B. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson read draft letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding this Commission's upcoming budget.

Mr. Carlson discussed article in Connecticut Forest and Park Association on a guide on what you can do to create a walkable community.

C. Ex-officio. Ms. Hardy was unable to be present.

D. Election of Officers.

a. Chairman. The Commission was asked for nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2014.

MOTION (4): Mr. Christiansen moved to nominate Art Carlson as Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2014. Seconded by Mr. Kalal.

There were no other nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2014.

MOTION (5): Mr. Christiansen moved to close nomination for Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2014. Seconded by Mr. Kalal.

A vote was taken and Mr. Carlson was unanimously elected Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2014.

b. Secretary. The Commission was asked for nominations for Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2014.

MOTION (6): Mr. Kalal moved to nominate Penny Heller as Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2014. Seconded by Mr. Christiansen.

There were no other nominations for Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2014.

A vote was taken and Ms. Heller was unanimously elected Secretary of the East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources for 2014.

VII. Adjournment.

MOTION (7): Mr. Christiansen moved to adjourn the January 8, 2014 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller, Member
Tom Kalal, Member
Mark Christiansen, Member
Marvin Schutt, Member
Laura Ashburn, Alternate

MOTION: Mr. Christiansen moved to go into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss 47 acres of property. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

No action was taken.

MOTION: Mr. Christiansen moved to adjourn Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary