

**EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 8, 2017**

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman  
Penny Heller, Secretary  
Mark Christensen, Member  
Don Danila, Member  
Ron Nichols, Alternate

FILED

March 15 2017 AT 1:35 AM/PM  
Karen Yulm, atc  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Laura Ashburn, Alternate  
Marvin Schutt, Member

Also Present: Selectwoman Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-officio

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Carlson called the March 8, 2017 Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Mr. Nichols was asked to be seated.

**I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS**

There were no guests.

**II. MINUTES**

The following corrections were noted under **Item V (A)**: The first sentence to be deleted. The second sentence to be revised as follows: " Mr. Christensen presented a letter regarding State-proposed Spill Mitigation/Containment System along the highway for a drinking water system to be reviewed at a later time."

**MOTION (1): Mr. Christensen moved to approve the February 8, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources, as amended. (5-0) Unanimous**

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION (2): Mr. Nichols moved to add Niantic River Behavior Change Campaign to this evening's Agenda, under III. New Business, item B. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (5-0) Unanimous**

**MOTION (3): Mr. Christensen moved to add Review of Open Space Criteria to this evening's Agenda, under V. A. Review of Open**

**Space Criteria. Seconded by Ms. Heller.  
(5-0) Unanimous.**

**A. Goodwin Trail.** Mr. Carlson reported he received an email from Pat Young informing him that the Goodwin Trail Committee of which Art Carlson (representing the Commission) is a member of, will receive an award from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council for Excellence in Conservation Organization.

**B. Niantic River Behavior Change Campaign.** Mr. Danila reported the Niantic River Behavior Change Campaign has to do with the use of fertilizer in the Niantic River Watershed. A door to door survey will take place to determine what type of fertilizer the homeowners use, and provide information on its affect on water. They are requesting help with the door to door campaign. The Commission was anxious to help. Various suggestions were made to possibly involve Boy Scouts, the National Guard, beach areas, and the Land Trust. More discussion is needed.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Continuation of Water Study.** Mr. Carlson distributed to Commission members information on Stormwater Management - Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems issued by the State of Connecticut and discussed the stringent rules for public use of the Massachusetts Quabbin Reservoir system.

Ms. Hardy arrived.

**1. Review of Open Space Criteria.** The Open Space Plan will be updated and will include Water Study information. Several special meetings are envisioned.

**VI. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Communications.** Mr. Carlson reported on a Federal Government Wildlife Fish and Game Project to purchase 3500 acres along the Connecticut and Rhode Island border to create thickets for birds and mammals. Perhaps the 2200 contiguous acres north of the recently purchased Niantic River Headwaters could be a player. There will be more to come.

**B. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported a Beekeeping Meeting will be held on March 17 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Olive Chendali Room. Three speakers will discuss pollinators. There are plants that can encourage it. All Commission members were invited to attend.

The Agribusiness Subcommittee invited the Zoning commissioners for an informal meeting together. Mr. Dinsmore plans to schedule a meeting with Mr. Mulholland.

The Zoning Commission denied the text amendment to amend Section 25 of the Zoning Regulations for farm events to occur on five acres as opposed to the now 50 acre lot. A complaint was received regarding music in the barn of Old Orchards Farm. Planning determined it was inconsistent with Planning. Mr. Christensen referred to Section 1.1 of the POCD. Mr. Carlson asked Mr. Christensen to write up the Agribusiness Subcommittee's position on this matter. Mr. Nichols stated this Commission is in favor of supporting farmers.

**C. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson reported we will lead hikes on the Goodwin Trail during Trail Day. A few helpers will be needed.

**D. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy reported budgets are being reviewed.

**MOTION (4):**        **Mr. Christensen moved to adjourn the  
March 8, 2017 Conservation of  
Natural Resources Regular Meeting  
at 8:20 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nichols.  
(5-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**

