

**East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources
Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2017**

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman; Penny Heller, Secretary; Members Mark Christiansen, Don Danila, Ron Nichols, Alternate seated; Laura Ashburn, Alternate; Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-Officio

Absent: Marvin Schutt, Member

Call to Order

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Motion (1): Motion made by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Christiansen, to seat Mr. Nichols.

Discussion none, vote all in favor 4/0, motion carried.

I. **Public Delegations** – none.

II. **Minutes of the September 20, 2017, meeting**

Motion (2): Motion made by Ms. Heller, seconded by Mr. Christiansen, to approve the minutes with minor revision after discussion. Vote all in favor 5/0, motion carried.

III. **New Business**

- A. Goodwin Trail: Mr. Carlson confirmed that the Trail's map was now posted on the town's website.
- B. Mr. Nichols made a motion, seconded by Mr. Christiansen, to add 'New Projects to Consider' to New Business. Vote all in favor 5/0, motion carried. Mr. Nichols provided a list of nine issues the Commission could consider working on which were discussed and tabled for future meetings. Mr. Nichols encouraged members to add to the list.

IV. **Old Business**

- A. Continuation of the Water Study: Mr. Carlson reviewed the progress he had made on developing an outline of a Town Water Study Report. He then assigned each of six topic sections to Commission members to draft a brief write-up. He handed out background documentation to each member to facilitate their writing task.

V. **Reports and Communication**

- A. **Communications** – none.
- B. **Agribusiness Subcommittee:** Mr. Christiansen informed the Commission that the Subcommittee submitted a letter to the Army Core of Engineers in support of the shellfish enterprise proposed for the Niantic River (*attached*).
- C. **Chairman's Report:** Mr. Carlson reported that he had walked trails on the Darrow Pond Reserve with Gary Goeschel (Town Planner) and Victor Benni (Public Works) to determine the best positioning of rain bars to stabilize existing trails which have been heavily eroded. The bars will be made from cedar logs, the purchase of which is still being worked out. Mr. Carlson also reported that he had lined up a candidate Eagle Scout who will build an outhouse at the first Darrow Pond campsite as his Eagle project. Plans for the structure have been approved by Town officials.

FILED

OCT 24 2017 AT 10:35 AM

Penny Heller, ATN
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

- D. **Ex-Officio Report:** Ms. Hardy reported that the Planning Commission has asked the Natural Resource Commission to provide information that it may have that is relevant to the Gateway Commons developer's waiver request to eliminate a required culvert and put in catch basins instead. After discussion the Commission voted (5/0) to have the Chairman talk with the Town Planner to see if attendance at their next meeting is necessary.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Danila, seconded by Mr. Christiansen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Penny Heller, Secretary for the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources

Ms. Cori Rose
Army Corps of Engineers
N. E. district
696 Virginia Rd.
Concord, Mass. 01742

Sept 21, 2017

Dear Ms. Rose,

The East Lyme Agribusiness sub-commission of the Conservation of Natural Resources Commission would like to submit a letter of SUPPORT for the Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm LLC (NAE-2017-00205) application. The Agribusiness sub-commission has no jurisdiction and was not solicited to comment on the matter. Nevertheless, we felt it was important to offer our advice.

We believe that this project will contribute positively to the restoration of shellfish and the overall ecology of the Niantic River. Shellfish, acting as filter feeders will remove large quantities of Nitrogen and phosphorus from the river. We know that these levels are at increased levels from storm water runoff, due to development in the Niantic River watershed. Additionally, the spawning of oysters and scallops will help restore the stocks throughout the river for recreational harvest.

We believe that the value of this project in helping clean the river far outweighs any detriments and our sub-commission unanimously supports this application. We also realize that the original comment period was closed on the 20th of September, but understand that you may extend the period for accepting comments. We did not meet until September 20th, at which time this issue was discussed.

Sincerely,

Mark Christensen
Chairman, East Lyme Agribusiness sub-commission of East Lyme
Conservation of Natural Resources Commission
Town Hall
Pennsylvania Ave.
Niantic, Ct. 06357