

East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2017

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman  
Penny Heller, Secretary  
Mark Christensen, Member  
Don Danila, Member  
Laura Ashburn, Alternate

FILED

Jan 17 2017 AT 11:15 AM/PM  
(Carmen Yulko, Jr)  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Marvin Schutt, Member  
Ron Nichols, Alternate

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Carlson called the January 11, 2017 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources to order at 7:05 p.m.

**MOTION (1):** Mr. Danila moved to request that Ms. Ashburn be seated in Mr. Schutt's absence. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (5-0) Unanimous.

**I. Public Delegations.** There were no guests.

**II Minutes.**

**A. Minutes of December 14, 2016.** Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the December 14, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources.

**MOTION (2):** Mr. Christensen moved to approve the December 14, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.

**MOTION (3):** Mr. Danila moved to add to this evening's Agenda under New Business, item C., Federal Railroad Administration New England Rail Proposal. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0) Unanimous.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Goodwin Trail.** Mr. Carlson reported we now have two parking lots established, one at Whistletown and one at Grassy Hill. There are kiosks at each location.

He will meet with the Eight Mile River group in two weeks to discuss signage for the Goodwin Trail.

**B. Election of Officers.** The Commission was asked for nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2017.

**MOTION (4): Mr. Christensen moved to nominate Art Carlson for Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2017. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.**

**A vote was taken and Mr. Carlson was unanimously elected Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2017.**

The Commission was asked for nominations for Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2017.

**MOTION(5): Mr. Christensen moved to nominate Penny Heller for Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2017. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.**

**A vote was taken and Ms. Heller was unanimously elected Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2017.**

**C. Federal Railroad Administration New England Rail Proposal.** Mr. Danila showed a map of the plan. He felt it would greatly affect the Town in the Flanders area of East Lyme. It will cross our major aquifers and streams and areas developed for businesses and housing. It will cut through lands in the Niantic River headwaters that we thought had been preserved. He reviewed the Environment Impact Statement. The Federal Administration heard comments from residents of Old Lyme concerning a tunnel in Old Lyme. He felt East Lyme residents missed an opportunity at that time to give comments. The deadline for comments is January 31. There is concern about the impact to water. Gov. Malloy felt repairs should be made to the railroad first.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS.**

**A. Continuation of Water Study.** The Water Study is continuing to be developed.

#### **V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.**

**A. Communications.** There were no communications.

**B. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported the Beekeeping Seminar has been postponed to February. Steve Dinsmore plans to meet with Mr. Mulholland.

Mr. Christensen spoke at a Zoning Meeting regarding amending Section 25 and pointed out items concerning farms. A permit is needed for indoor music. There was a lot of support for this amendment.

A Pot Luck Dinner for Preservationists will be held at Niantic Community Church on January 13 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**C. RBV Report--Penny Heller.** Ms. Heller had nothing new to report.

**D. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson reported the Niantic River Headwaters Project is completed for the first block of 166 acres and the remaining 37 acres is awaiting completion. He discussed a proposal from the National Fish and Wildlife Service regarding its desire to acquire 3500 acres of early succession forest along the Rhode Island and Connecticut border.

**E. Ex-officio.** Ms. Hardy was unable to be present.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT.**

**MOTION (6)**        **Mr. Danila moved to adjourn the January 11, 2017 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christiensen. (5-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

