



East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural  
Resources

East Lyme Agribusiness Sub-committee

Meeting of February 21st, 2018 at 6:30 PM

Held at East Lyme High School Cafeteria Commons 30 Chesterfield Rd., East Lyme, Connecticut 06333

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The Feb. 21st 2018 meeting was called to order by Mark Christianson at 6:35 PM.

A quorum was present.

Members Present: Mark Christianson, MaryCathrine Solomkin Bruce Solomkin, Tom Kalal, SallyUden, Thomas Hall

FILED

Absent: Melissa Miko

Feb 27 2018 AT 8:35 AM/PM  
*(Sally Uden)*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Others Present: Steve Dinsmore, Nancy Kalal, Kyle & Samantha Cory

Delegations: Nancy Kalal representing The New London Farm Bureau, Steve Dinsmore representing the Harbor Management Commission

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 17th meeting were read and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- Open Farm Day: After fact-finding report on parking resources and police dep't. input by Tom Kalal and brief discussion the committee agreed on the following parameters for Open Farm Day: That it would be from 10am to 1 or 2pm. That the staging area and main parking lot would be at the town hall with whatever parking spaces we can reserve at Cini Park (probably 5). That two tractors will provide hayrides along the route of the tour and that each hayride will have a driver and a flight attendant on the trailer. And that there would be a greeter at the town hall lot and each of the three farms for a total of 8 volunteers. It was noted that all locations and the hayrides would be covered under the town's insurance during the event.
- Discussion about whether Niantic Bay Shellfish Farms would want help developing their program for Open Farm Day 2018. Cassie DuBrule said she'd speak with Mr. Londregan about it.
- Sally Uden reported that she'd asked Mr. Brubaker of Rickety Picketts Farm to participate in the Open Farm Day tour and he had been agreeable but the farm is now a co-operative and he will put the question to it's members for approval.

- Bruce Solomkin, Showed the committee a prototype of the Open Farm Day signage he's been working on and described the use of separate arrows that could be affixed to the signs in any direction thereby greatly simplifying setting up the signage.
- Thomas Hall reported that he had made some initial investigation into the Agricultural viability grants but information on the state's website indicated that the application deadline had passed. He will make inquiries about whether the grant program will be renewed for 2018
- Mark Christianson reported that Open Farm Day was discussed by the Friends of the Samuel Smith Homestead and that they were planning to have their own event but would allow some Open Farm Day activity to take place there if we got in a jam.
- Beekeeping: Mark Christianson & Steve Dinsmore attended the Conservation Commission meeting seeking advice on how to submit a zoning application as a town entity for the reduced fee. Mark said that town planner Gary A. Goeschel II had not returned any of several e-mails he had sent him regarding the matter and was out of the office when he went in person to the town hall.
- Harbor Management Report: Steve Dinsmore reports that there is lots of activity surrounding Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm's quest to restore commercial shellfishing to the Niantic River. That there is talk of a committee being formed with representatives from East Lyme Harbor Management Commission, Waterford Harbor Management Commission, and Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission (WELSCO) to identify sites for type II aquaculture. Cassie DuBrule who had attended the Feb 1<sup>st</sup> mediation meeting commented that the atmosphere had been horrible and that the crowd had been unruly and uncivil.

#### New Business:

- Tom Kalal announced that he was working with a Waterford High School Student who was crowdfunding a program to help towns advance pollinators and was looking for potential grant recipients who would implement pollinator programs. Steve Dinsmore said that the Eastern Connecticut Beekeepers Association had a scholarship program which could benefit from being the recipient of such a grant.

#### Reports & Communications:

- Nancy Kalal of the New London Farm Bureau informed the committee that the Stonington Economic Development Commission was hosting a talk by Joan Nichols of the CT Department of Agriculture about Public Act 490 (Connecticut's Land Use Value Assessment Law for Farm Land, Forest Land and Open Space Land--one of the most important laws to help preserve an agricultural, forest, and natural resource land base in Connecticut.) The talk will be held Monday February 26, 2018 7-9pm at La Grua Center 32 Water Street Stonington, CT

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Solomkin at 7:35PM and seconded by Sally Uden. The committee voted unanimously in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Hall

Secretary