Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 8, 2018
Waterford Town Hall, 7:00 pm

Members present: Peter Harris, Tom Bowlen, Paul Spakowski, J. Patrick Kelly, Elizabeth Gelinas, Eric Kanter and Larry Tytla
Absent: Fred Grimsey,

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Harris; he declared a quorum was present.

The Chairman gave an overview of allocating funds to publish a SeaGrant pamphlet describing environmentally responsible lawn care methods to minimize nutrient loading that causes hypoxia. The plan is to have the $1,000 dollars need to fund the Day Ad project split between WELSCO, Niantic River Watershed Commission, Waterford Shellfish Commission, and East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission. He stated that EL Harbor Mgmt / Shellfish had not acted on the proposal yet. The published pamphlet ad would be color, ~9" x 18", and be run in Sunday March 25th showing the sponsoring Commissions.

After a general discussion about obtaining a list of professional lawn care companies from both towns halls that would be used to mail them a copy of the SeaGrant pamphlet.

A motion was made to appropriate $500 for the running of the SeaGrant pamphlet as an ad; that would only be $250 if the EL Harbor Mgmt. /Shellfish Commission contributes! Motion by Paul Spakowski and seconded by Larry Tytia. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Bowlen.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Patrick Kelly
Secretary Pro Tempore

FILED
Mar 9 2018 AT 2:00 AM/PM
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Gardening for a Cause – Long Island Sound

Excessive nutrients and chemicals that result, in part, from residential landscaping practices, contribute runoff that is harmful to the nation's estuaries, including Long Island Sound. Adopting even a few of these suggestions can help protect our coastal waters. You CAN make a DIFFERENCE!

Sea Grant Connecticut

Long Island Sound Study

longislandsoundstudy.net/
www.seagrant.uconn.edu/

PROBLEM PREVENTION

Mow high (3") to keep grass roots strong. When starting or reseeding a lawn, introduce hearty varieties (such as fescues) that have lower nitrogen and water demands. Too much nitrogen increases disease problems, lowers tolerance to temperature variations, increases the need for moisture, and can contribute to thatch.

WATER SMART

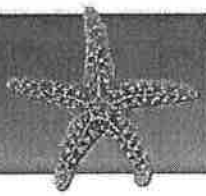
To prevent leaching, don't overwater: 1" – 1.5" of water a week; early morning hours are best. Water deeply and infrequently, and water the lawn separately from other landscaping.

PESTICIDES

Be certain that a pesticide is needed. Don't use weed & feed products – one size does ***not*** fit all. Area treatment vs. broadcast application is best. Use cultural practices (pulling, squishing) or alternative treatments (such as vinegar, or flame). Plant native plants that are adapted to local conditions. Pesticides kill the beneficial soil organisms that keep thatch in check.

ALTERNATIVES

How much lawn do you need?
Reduce your active lawn area in favor of native plant borders and beds that attract wildlife, help diminish pollution and provide habitat for important insect pollinators. Accept a little damage: only 5% – 25% of bugs are pests in the yard.

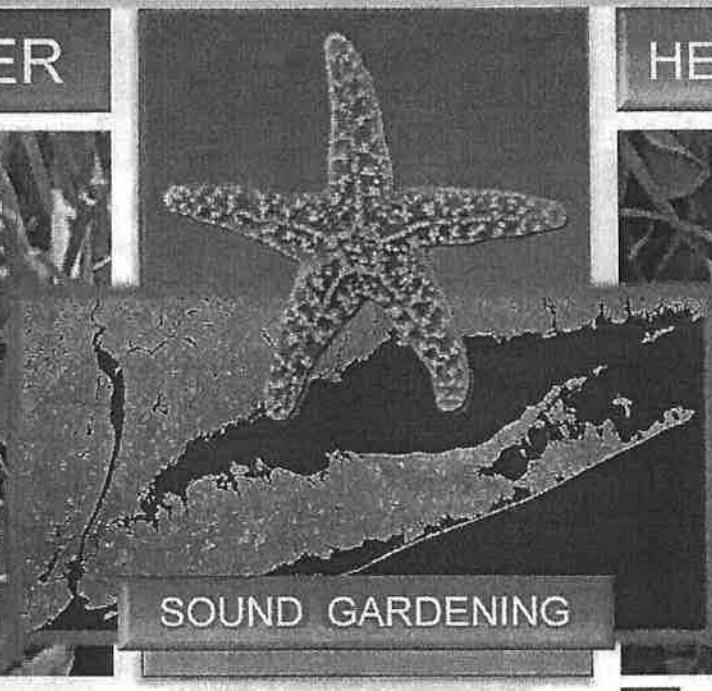


FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Judy Preston, Long Island Sound Study Connecticut Outreach Coordinator: judy.preston@uconn.edu, or visit Sound Gardening at *LongIslandSoundStudy.net*

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

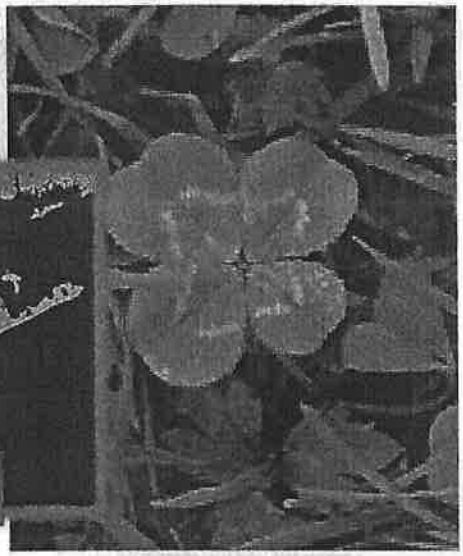
Best Management Practices for Healthy Lawns that Protect Long Island Sound

FERTILIZER



SOUND GARDENING

HEALTHY SOIL



Don't use it all if you don't need it. The only way to know if you need fertilizer is to get a soil test: http://soiltest.uconn.edu/sampling.php

FERTILIZER

Apply only if needed, only what is needed, to where it is needed, at reduced rates, never on hard surfaces or before a big rain

Apply one half to one third less fertilizer than recommended; maximum 2lbs per 1000 ft ^{2} for a lawn that is 10 years or older; up to 3lb/ 1000 ft ^{2} <10 yrs. old.

Consider adding white clover; it's a good source of nitrogen for lawns.

"Grass-cycle"- leave your clippings on the lawn. 46% to 59% of applied nitrogen ends up in clippings, reducing the need for more added nitrogen by 25% – 40%.

Apply no more than twice a year: after spring green-up and no later than October 15th. The best one time application is mid-September through mid October.

Slow release fertilizers are best (they feed the soil). **Organic** is preferable to petroleum-based inorganics.

HEALTHY SOIL

Healthy soil buffers grass from heat and drought stress.

Feed the soil to sustain the plants: Add **compost** (organic material - between 3-5% is ideal).

Maintain **pH levels** between 6.0 – 6.5.

Source: *New England Regional Nitrogen & Phosphorus Fertilizer and Associated Management Practice Recommendations for Lawns Based on Water Quality Considerations, University of Connecticut, 2017*

too much fertilizer is too much fertilizer, whether it's organic or inorganic