

**EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2018**

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

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio
Harvey Beeman

Absent: Marvin Schutt, Member
Ron Nichols, Alternate

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Mar 20 2018 AT 2:30 AM (PM)
B. [Signature] ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carlson called the March 14, 2018 Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MOTION (1): Ms. Ashburn moved to add under New Business as item A. SustainableCT.org Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

Mr. Beeman expressed interest in becoming an alternate on this Commission.

II. MINUTES

A. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the February 14, 2018 Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting Minutes.

The following corrections were noted: On page 2, under item D, the paragraph to be revised as follows: Chairman Carlson reported that nine water bars were placed at Darrow Pond two weeks ago and he is hoping to begin placing 18 additional water bars at the Nehantic State Forest. The repeated item D should be item E.

MOTION (2): Mr. Christensen moved to accept the February 14, 2018 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. Ms. Heller abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. **SustainableCT.org** Ms. Ashburn reported she and Ms. Heller reviewed the possibility of becoming part of the Sustainable Study. (See attached "SustainableCT" Program Summary). The Board of Selectmen will be asked if they have interest in it.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Progress in Putting Water Study Report Together.** Mr. Carlson reported the Water Study Report is making progress. Mr. Carlson and Ms. Heller plan to get together next week. He discussed an article in the Day newspaper from August 2008 by Paul Formica where he said: "We have created The Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources to give voice to safeguarding open space and watersheds." This Commission has done just that!

Work on the Goodwin Trail. Mr. Carlson informed the Commission the rehab of the Goodwin Trail is almost completed.

The erosion on the Darrow Pond section has been repaired and about one-half a mile of the trail in the Nehantic State Forest has been repaired and stabilized.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Communications.** Ms. Hardy was asked to have a letter from this Commission placed on a Board of Selectmen Agenda.
- B. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christiansen reported the Bike & Barbeque event will be held on September 29 and start and end at the Smith-Harris House.

Mr. Christiansen distributed copies of the Town of East Lyme Proposed Regulations on Honey Bees, revised March 14, 2018 (See attached).

MOTION (3): Ms. Ashburn moved to support the proposed Application for Zoning Text Amendment on on honey bees. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Christiansen informed the Commission they are working on proposed regulations for music on a farm.

- C. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson suggested that information on the Backyard Stream and Pond Buffer be placed as a link to this Commission's website. The Commission agreed and it will be done.
- D. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy reported the Board of Selectmen will forward the Town Government budget with a 0% increase to the Board of Finance. She stated at the present time we were able to retain all staff. Some employees have retired and will not be replaced.

She discussed Mr. Formica's proposal to sell Seaside. There is an application from a developer who has agreed to keep some open space. Although the Commission took no position on the proposal as we believe our Charter does not give us this option, as citizens we unanimously think this is not a good idea.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (4): Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the March 14, 2018 Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christiansen. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources:

- Provide Watershed Education
- Create a Watershed Management Plan
- Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration
- Develop an Open Space Plan
- Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory
- Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use
- Provide Education on Water Conservation
- Implement Low Impact Development
- Manage Woodlands and Forests
- Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management
- Implement Green Grounds and Maintenance Program

“SustainableCT” Program Summary

- An online framework for logistical support to CT town officials looking to implement a range of economic, environmental and cultural improvements and attractions.
- Program provides grant opportunities to fund infrastructure and transportation projects, protect the environment, and create efficiencies in housing and public services.
- Program is coordinated by Eastern Connecticut State University Institute for Sustainable energy, and funded by three CT nonprofits: the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, Common Sense fund, and Hampshire Foundation (Hampshire plans to provide \$250,000 for small grants to towns for climate and energy-related projects).
- Each participating town becomes certified when at least one of many listed actions is completed in each of nine different program aspects (see list below). Higher certification levels are earned when more actions are completed.
- To date 34 towns, including Waterford and Groton, have signed on to the program; none have completed their certification process.
- A goal of the program is to save towns money by helping to improve energy efficiency, promote partnerships within and among towns, and assist with planning tools that help avoid expensive infrastructure damage during storms and power outages.

A recent article in The New London Day discussed more details about the program ([NL, Groton eye recognition in program on sustainability](#) , By Benjamin Kail, Day Staff Writer, Jan 25, 2018).

SUSTAINABLE_CT ACTION CATEGORIES (See: <https://sustainablect.org/actions>)

- Thriving Local Economies
- **Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources**
- Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems
- Dynamic and Resilient Planning
- Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices
- Efficient Physical Infrastructure and Operations
- Strategic and Inclusive Public Services
- Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing
- Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts
- Innovation Actions

Town of East Lyme Proposed Regulations on Honey Bees

2-14-18 Draft/ Revised 3-14-18

The keeping of Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera*) shall be permitted as an accessory use to a residential principal use on any lot in accordance with the following hive density restrictions:

1. Lot sizes of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre or less: up to two colonies and up to two nucleus colonies shall be permitted.
2. Lots of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre shall limit the number of colonies to no more than 4 colonies and up to three nucleus colonies.
3. Lots of $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to 1 acre shall limit the number to six(6) colonies and up to four (4) nucleus colonies.
4. Lots greater than one (1) acre shall not be limited as long as the guidelines on Best Management Practices are followed.

Limitations will not be imposed under the following condition:

1. If the colonies are situated at least 100 feet from a property line.

Defintions:

Nucleus or nuc: a 4-5 frame starter colony that is used to establish new colonies or replace colonies that have died over the winter. It consists of an accepted Queen on drawn foundation.

Colony: consists of a Queen, worker bees and for a few months, drones.

Hive: one colony of bees, with one Queen. It can range from one box to many boxes in height.