



# East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources

## East Lyme Agribusiness Sub-committee

Meeting of March 28th, 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 March 28th 2018 meeting was called to order by Mark Christianson at 6:40 PM.

A quorum was present.

Members Present: Mark Christianson, SallyUden, Steve Dinsmore, Thomas Hall

Absent: Melissa Miko, MaryCatherine Solomkin, Bruce Solomkin, Tom Kalal

Others Present: Steve Dinsmore, Nancy Kalal, Cassie Dubrule

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were read and unanimously approved.

### Old Business:

- Organic Vegetable Gardening Course: Thomas Hall reported that Master Gardeners Lilian King, Trish Hvoldsen, Kris Meir, & Ray and Penny Heller did a great job of introducing the basics of Organic gardening to an inaugural class of 5 people. The class covered soils, site planning, and composting principals.
- Agriculture Viability grant: Thomas Hall said that He'd spoken with Jamie Smith at the Department of Agriculture who told him that the grants were available again for 2018 and that when the application forms become available they will be basically the same as the 2017 forms.
- Beekeeping: Mark Christianson Announced that the proposed beekeeping zoning amendment has been approved by the East Lyme Conservation Commission which will now submit it to the Zoning Board.
- Agri-tourisim (music on the farm). Mark Christianson Said that the E.L. Conservation Commission has approved the proposed farm text amendment to the zoning regulations and that it will present it to the Zoning Board.

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EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

- Harbor Management Report: Steve Dinsmore reported that Mark Londregan of Niantic Bay Shellfish Farms has applied for 2 new aquaculture leases. One in the vicinity of Cini park west of the kayak launch, and one in the northern part of the river in Waterford waters.

New Business: None

Reports & Communications:

- Butch Foster of Old Orchard Farm was interviewed by reporter Steve Fagin of the New London Day for a story on sustainable agriculture.
- Cassie Dubrue reported that she had received a copy of the Department of Energy and the Environment's proposed changes to the fishing regulations which reduced the daily limit on fish so drastically that it raised the question of whether charter fishing boats like hers could remain viable. She also commented that the entire document was written in a way that she and others she'd spoken to about it thought that it was confusing even to those well acquainted with the subject.
- Celebrate East Lyme Day, and consequently, Open Farm Day has been scheduled a week later than usual. East Lyme Day will be on July 21<sup>st</sup> and Open Farm Day on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Steve Dinsmore attended Agriculture Day at the state capitol and reported that there had been a decent turnout despite the snowstorm. While there he met with Chelsea Gazzillo of the Working Lands Alliance / American Farmland Trust.
- Steve Dinsmore reports that the Connecticut Harbor Management association is developing a "Blue Plan" resource management plan for Long Island sound.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Dinsmore at 7:30 PM and seconded by Sally Uden. The committee voted unanimously in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Hall

Secretary