

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2018

Present: Art Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller, Secretary
Don Danila
Laura Ashburn
Mark Christensen
Ron Nichols, Alternate
Harvey Beeman, Alternate

FILED

April 17 2018 AT 12:15 AM/PM
William Yulm
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-officio

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

There were no guests.

II. MINUTES

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

The following corrections were noted: Under those present change Christiansen, Mark to Mark Christiansen. On page two under communications revise the first sentence as follows: Ms. Hardy was asked to have a letter regarding I-95 Exit 74 spill mitigation/containment from this Commission placed on the Board of Selectmen Agenda.

MOTION (1): Mr. Danila moved to approve the March 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0) Unanimous

MOTION (2): Ms. Heller moved to add to this evening's Agenda, under New Business, A. Pitch Pine Tree Farm, under Old Business C. Farm Text Amendments and D. SustainableCT.org and E. Website Development. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0) Unanimous.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Pitch Pine Tree Farm. Ms. Heller reported the Friends of Oswegachie Hills are requesting that this Commission endorse the development of the north end of Veterans Memorial Park as a tree nursery for pitch pine trees. The President of Oswegachie Hills asked for our endorsement.

Mr. Danila felt they would need to go to Inland Wetlands for approval.

Ms. Heller stated they would need to chop down the weeds, put black plastic down and add soil as needed. They will build raised beds. The Town will only need to mow the area. All equipment will be donated at no cost to the Town.

Judy Roundeau has a grant to build 100 rain gardens.

MOTION (3): Ms. Heller moved that the Conservation of Natural Resources endorse the development of a tree nursery for the imperiled pitch pine and an adjacent rain garden on the northern portion of Veteran's Memorial Park overflow parking area. Seconded by Mr. Christiansen. (5-0) Unanimous.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Progress in Putting Water Study Report Together. Mr. Carlson reported sections 1, 2 and 3 have been completed. He gave Ms. Heller section 4. Mr. Nichols asked if the Commission will be able to see a draft of the Water Study Report? Mr. Carlson informed him they will be involved in all aspects of assembling the final report.

B. Work on the Goodwin Trail. Mr. Carlson reported one-half a mile of Forest Road south of Grassy Hill Road has been rehabilitated as the first one-fourth mile of the trail from the Darrow Pond parking lot.

C. Farm Text Amendments. Messrs. Christiansen, Carlson, Mulholland and Walker discussed the text amendment for honey bees.

There was discussion on music for special events at farms. The original proposal called for farms of five acres, and it has been increased to ten acres. Messrs. Mulholland and Walker will review the proposal.

D. SustainabilityCT.org. Ms. Ashburn asked that this item be kept on future agendas.

E. Website Development. Ms. Ashburn felt that information on Backyard Stream and Pond Buffers can be placed on our website. Ms. Heller suggested a link to the Nature Conservancy, because it has a lot of mapping. She suggested writing an explanation to make it easier for residents to understand it. Coastal Resistance at Avery Point can assist the Town.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Communications. Mr. Danila reported the Connecticut State Water Plan is under consideration by a joint hearing by the Environment, Planning and Development, Public

Health and Energy and Technology committees on April 17. Comments on the State Water Plan will be accepted until 2 p.m. on Friday April 13.

B. Agribusiness Subcommittee. Mr. Christiansen reported the Agribusiness Subcommittee plans to be in the Memorial Day Parade. They would like to feature aquaculture. The Agribusiness Subcommittee will also be involved on Celebrate East Lyme and Open Farm Day.

He attended a Agribusiness meeting in Canterbury with several other agribusiness groups. They all want to preserve aquaculture. The Agribusiness Subcommittee would like to have a speaker at its November meeting on Conservation Options and Land Preservation.

C. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson reported he will meet with State Forester Dick Raymond on April 13 to finish the report of the Forest Management Plan for Darrow Pond. This report is part of the scientific Forest Management Plan that the Commission has started.

Messrs. Carlson and Goeschel will lead a hike on June 2 at Darrow Pond.

D. Ex-officio Report. Ms. Hardy will take the Commission's letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding I-95 Exit 74 spill mitigation/containment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (4): Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:22 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary