

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2018

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Laura Ashburn, Commission Member
Penny Heller, Commission Member
Mark Christensen, Commission Member
Don Danila, Commission Member
Harvey Beeman, Alternate

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
DEC 17 2018 AT 1:45 AM/PM
Brooke Beeman ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Ron Nichols, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the December 12, 2018 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.

II. **MINUTES**

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

The following correction was noted: On page 2, under item C. the second sentence to be revised as follows: "Ms. Hardy had agreed to follow up with Mr. Nickerson about this matter."

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

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Follow up with Zoning on Status of Beekeeping Ordinance and Music Ordinance.** Mr. Carlson asked for an update on the status of the beekeeping and music ordinances. Mr. Christensen reported Mr. Dinsmore met with Mr. Nickerson to discuss the Beekeeping Ordinance. Mr. Nickerson felt a Subcommittee of the Zoning Commission should review the matter and make a recommendation to the Zoning Commission.

The Music Ordinance is on hold. Mr. Christensen will meet with a Zoning Subcommittee on this matter.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Progress in Putting Water Study Report Together.** The Water Study Report is almost complete. Mr. Carlson and Ms. Heller will draft a cover letter to send with the Water Study Report.

B. **Work on the Goodwin Trail.** Mr. Carlson reported the Engineering Department has two loads of wood chips that can be used on the Goodwin Trail.

C. **SustainabilityCT.org**

Ms. Heller agreed to contact Ms. Hardy regarding this matter.

- **Update to this Commission on Solar Energy Project Development in Waterford.** Mr. Danila attended the December 6 meeting to reconsider the Siting Council's ruling on Greenskies' Petition for Reconsideration. The applicant did not have a proper wildlife survey as noted by CT DEEP. Save the River, Save the Hills also submitted comments. A geotechnical plan on storm water was not submitted. The Siting Council denied the request without prejudice so that the applicant can continue the process but would need to complete a geotechnical plan and wildlife survey. The Siting Council previously toured the area and spotted a ribbon snake, which is state threatened. Mr. Danila felt they are not using the most modern methods for correctly handling stormwater.

Mr. Christensen reported about Mr. Bialowans, whose land abuts the area Greenskies previously developed in East Lyme, had massive erosion and large gullies after the solar field next to his property was clear cut.

Mr. Danila reported there will be a Special Water & Sewer meeting on December 18 with respect to the sewer capacity for the housing project proposed in the Oswegatchie Hills.

V. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

A. **Communications.** Mr. Danila reported the Annual Report from the Connecticut Nature Conservancy featured Ms. Heller in one of its articles.

B. **Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported the Agribusiness Subcommittee is concerned about the Solar Energy Project Development.

Mr. Christensen reported the Preservation groups will have a Pot Luck Supper on January 28 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Niantic Community Church.

On February 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the East Lyme Room of the library Whitney Beals of New England Forestry Foundation will discuss Farm Land Preservation and tax benefits. Advertising money will be needed for this event.

C. **Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson reported he received much data on carbon the forest's role in sequestration.

D. **Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy was unable to be present, and there was no report.

E. **Riffle Bioassessment for Volunteers.** Ms. Heller and Mr. Danila addressed the Riffle Bioassessment for Volunteers program. Recently Mr. Kalal allowed them access upper Cranberry Meadow via his farm. They will try to sample beautiful stream next year.

This year the Commission was unable to do the RBV sampling due to high water from many rainstorms.

Mr. Carlson discussed a stream in the area of the parking lot for the Goodwin Trail, which is on state property, and could be a sampling site.

Ms. Heller emailed DEEP about our inability to sample this year. This program is looking for pristine sites in headwater streams.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (3): Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the December 12, 2018 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary