

**TOWN OF EAST LYME
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller, Secretary
Laura Ashburn
Mark Christensen
Don Danila
Ron Nichols, Alternate
Harvey Beeman, Alternate
Absent: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio

FILED

APR 8 2019 AT 12:00 AM (PM)
(Signature)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carlson called the March 13, 2019 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS – none

II. MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2019.

MOTION (1): Motion made by Commissioner Danila, seconded by Commissioner Ashburn, to accept the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources February 13, 2019 Minutes, with the following amendments:

Item IV(A):

Director of Planning Gary Goeschel and ~~himself~~ Chairman Carlson will be presenting...

Item V(A)1:

Commissioner Christensen reported that the Aquifer Protection Agency has been submitting documents and requested that the...

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

III. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA – none

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recycling – What, How

Chairman Carlson proposed delving into the issue of recycling. Commissioner Danila noted that two of the primary issues surrounding recycling include:

- 1) Many residents continue to include items that cannot be recycled in their recycling bins and increased awareness regarding what items can/cannot be recycled is necessary. He was pleased to see a recent advertisement in *The Lyme Times* for the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRA) which provided a list of accepted recyclable items.
- 2) Plastic bags have become a major issue as recyclers continue to include plastic bags among their recyclables rather than placing them in the recycling bins designated for plastic bags at local markets. The plastic bags clog the sorting machines wreaking havoc and adding unnecessary processing/sorting time. One possible solution would be to institute a ban on plastic bags is one possible solution.

The Commissioners discussed speaking with the Public Works Department and SCRRA to determine how recyclables are handled in an effort to generate possible solutions and/or ways in which they can inform and educate the public, including creating an informative webpage and producing labels that can be placed on the bins reminding recyclers of the acceptable materials. The information can be compiled and included in a brief report that can be presented to the Board of Selectmen for review and action. Chairman Carlson and Commissioner Beeman will schedule a meeting with the town engineer to discuss the main issues and ways in which they might be able to resolve the issue(s).

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Progress in Putting Water Study Report Together

Chairman Carlson reported that the minor corrections to the Water Study are in the process of being completed and, once completed, will be printed and distributed.

Chairman Carlson and Director of Planning Gary Goeschel attended and provided a presentation to the members of the Planning Commission's POCD (Planning of Conservation and Development) Sub-Committee. The Commissioners are invited to attend their monthly meetings and provide them with any necessary input and/or assistance. The Open Space Report, which will be updated, will be included in the Plan.

B. Work on the Goodwin Trail

Chairman Carlson is working with the Director of Planning and town engineer to prepare the application for a \$20,000.00 Dominion Energy grant. The deadline date is April 30.

C. SustainabilityCT.org

Commissioner Heller reported that the Board of Selectmen recently passed a resolution to enter into the program with CNRC serving as the agency to help administer the program. The Director of Planning will register the town and a Sustainable CT Subcommittee, comprised of no more than three (3) CNRC members, will be formed and a meeting be held within 90 days. A copy of the program's protocol, developed by UCONN, will be sent to the Commissioners.

MOTION (2): Motion made by Commissioner Danila, seconded by Commissioner Christensen, to establish a Sustainability CT Subcommittee and appoint Conservation of Natural Resources Commissioners Ashburn, Beeman, and Heller as members of the Subcommittee. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

D. Solar Update – no update

VI. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Communications

ECCD (Eastern Connecticut Conservation District) Outlook, Winter 2019 newsletter, which includes information regarding their annual Spring Seedling and Plant Sale.

B. Agribusiness Subcommittee

Commissioner Christensen reported that a reasonably successful Farmland Preservation Seminar, featuring two speakers who discussed farmland preservation programs and issues surrounding the designation of Public Act 490, was held. The Commission discussed the possibility of addressing the issue of PA490 and the assessor's determination of the minimum land sizes for open space, farming and forest.

A presentation titled "Who is Polluting Long Island Sound?" will be provided on April 15, 6:30 p.m., at the East Lyme Community Center.

The Zoning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing regarding beekeeping on March 21. Resident Steve Dinsmore, who is also the President of the CT Beekeepers Association, will be speaking at the Public Hearing. All of the Commissioners were invited to attend the meeting to provide moral support.

C. Chairman's Report

At the suggestion of Commissioner Nichols, the letters generated by the Commission will be attached to the Commission's meeting minutes for future reference.

The Commissioners agreed to educate themselves on the subject of carbon sequestration. The item will be added to the Commission's April agenda.

D. Ex-Officio Report – no report; not present

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (4): Motion made by Commissioner Danila, seconded by Commissioner Ashburn to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

