

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Present: Art Carlson, Chairman
Don Danila
Mark Christensen
Penny Heller
Harvey Beeman, Alternate

FILED

Nov 22 2019 AT 10:27 AM PM
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EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Ron Nichols
Laura Ashburn

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio
Christopher McDermott, Staff Reporter of CT Examiner

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION (1): Mr. Danila moved to seat Harvey Beeman for Laura Ashburn.
Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0-) Unanimous

I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

There were no public delegations.

II. MINUTES

A. Minutes of October 9, 2019. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the October 9, 2019 Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting Minutes.

The following correction was noted: On page 2, under Old Business, Solar Farm, Stony is misspelled.

MOTION (2): Mr. Danila moved to accept the October 9, 2019 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. Christensen and Mr. Beeman abstained from voting. (3-0-2) Motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. RBV Report. Mr. Danila reported that the RBV (Riffle Bioassessment for Volunteers) sampling was a joint effort between this Commission and the Niantic River Watershed Committee. CT DEEP has classified the types of macroinvertebrates collected and wants four or more of the most desired insects as an indication of good quality water.

Mr. Danila and Ms. Heller sampled in Cranberry Meadow Brook on October 18, 2019. The results were very good with 6 most wanted, 6 moderately wanted, 1 least wanted, and 3 other macroinvertebrate organisms collected.

He reported the group also sampled in Latimer Brook behind the IGA Plaza and by the Colony Road bridge. Collection at the former were also good, but only two most wanted organisms were collected at the latter site.

On October 24 the group sampled Four Mile River downstream of the Spring Brook Road bridge. Collections there also indicated relatively good water quality.

MOTION (3): Mr. Danila moved that this Commission recognize the following three RVB volunteers: Ray Heller, Aaron Pauley and Steve Loomis. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (5-0) Unanimous.

A. 2020 Schedule of Meeting Dates. The Commission reviewed the draft letter of 2020 schedule of meeting dates.

MOTION (4): Mr. Christensen moved to accept the proposed meeting dates for 2020. Seconded by Mr. Beeman. (5-0) Unanimous.

IV. OLD BUSINESS Distribution of Water Study Report. Ms. Hardy reported this Commission should have received an email from the Board of Selectmen regarding their attendance at the Aquifer Protection Committee Meeting to be held on December 17 at 6:45 p.m. She asked that the Aquifer Protection Committee allow members of this Commission to speak.

A. Work on the Goodwin Trail. Mr. Carlson requested that the Goodwin Trail be mowed and brush hogged. He felt it would be a good cross-country ski area.

Mr. Carlson informed the Commission a third Eagle Scout has built and installed a privy on Darrow's Pond land at the campsite.

B. SustainabilityCT.org Ms. Heller reported we have completed all requirements for bronze certification. Now the Sustainability subcommittee is starting to look into projects which this program will fund through their grant process.

She has met with Mike McDowell who has expressed interest in one of the actions that did not pass during the certification process (we did receive 300 points of the 330 we submitted). We are now able to apply for grants. Ms. Heller, Ms. Ashburn and Messrs. Beeman and McDowell plan to start by meeting with the public interested in bike riding and hiking in town. Our hope is to make East Lyme more bike and walking friendly. Ms. Ashburn will work with her students on the pedestrian component. With the help of input from the public we hope to put together a map of safe and enjoyable biking routes, and then apply for a grant to fund street signs and lane marking. The SCT Council of Governments already has a Bike Plan involving several towns using Rt. 156 which would be good to include in a second step.

Mr. McDowell has ideas for mountain biking in a designated area which we could include in these projects. We will need to crowd source funding for any of these projects using the programs website IOBY. We also need the Town's official participation.

- C. **POCD UPDATE.** Mr. Carlson is continuing to work with Mr. Goeschel on updating all of our maps. The Planning Commission is in complete agreement on putting the Water Report in the POCD.

Ms. Hardy asked that the Aquifer Protection Committee have copies of the Water Report prior to meeting with this Commission. Mr. Carlson agreed to give copies to Mr. Mulholland.

Mr. Christensen reported the State of Connecticut will forward to the Chairman of the POCD a copy of Living with Livestock.

The issue of back lots policy in subdivisions may need changing. This matter will be brought to the attention of the Planning Commission. It's a safety concern.

- D. **SOLAR FARM** Mr. Danila reported there has been no further movement from the petitioners in submitting materials to the CT Siting Council. In order to access the area to monitor stream water temperature in Stony Brook as was outline during last month's meeting the group needed permission from the property owners for access. There are seven property owners and he was told that several have objected to allow access onto their property. Therefore, the group cannot access the brook. They may put the instruments in the stream in the culvert underneath Parkway North.

Save the River Save the Hills is now involved with another solar power site proposed in Old Lyme

Mr. Christensen informed Mr. Danila that his son's URI Professor would like to meet with him.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Communications. Mr. Danila reported the Nature Conservancy's 2019 Connecticut Year Review discussed an effort by the Niantic River Watershed Committee to reduce fertilizer use within the watershed, highlighting efforts of the Committee's coordinator, Ms. Judy Rondeau. Ms. Rondeau has recently received another grant for this work to continue. Mr. Danila will have her contact Mr. Carlson regarding expanding fertilizer use reduction in other watersheds within East Lyme.

- A. **Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported we are trying to develop cross Town communication. We want to determine if Waterford is interested in an Agribusiness Subcommittee.

The Annual Conservationist Pot Luck Dinner will be held in January.

Two members will resign from the Subcommittee. He asked if anyone knows someone who is interested in joining it to let him know.

Ms. Hardy asked if there continues to be good attendance at the Farmer's Market? Mr. Christensen felt there was. Smith Acres will have an indoor Farmer's Market in January or February. Ms. Heller suggested that they consider having a children's program to have them involved in eating fresh vegetables.

B. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson had nothing further to report.

C. Ex-Officio Report. Ms. Hardy had no other comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (4): Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the November 13, 2019 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary