

**EAST LYME PLANNING COMMISSION
PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD)
SUBCOMMITTEE**

East Lyme Town Hall, Upper Meeting Room
108 Pennsylvania Avenue, East Lyme, Connecticut

CHAIRWOMEN: Michelle Williams

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Kirk Scott, Rosemary Ostfeld, Richard Gorpheo, Norm Peck,

ABSENT: Peter Lynch, Larry Fitzgerald

PLANNING DIRECTOR: Gary A. Goeschel II

Jan 20 2020 AT 3:46 AM/PM
Wendy Helm
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwomen, Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

I ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - There were no additions to the Agenda

II PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

Public Delegations is the time when members of the public are invited to speak to the Commission about certain matters. Items, referrals, or applications subject to a decision by the Commission, a public hearing, or in litigation may not be discussed. During delegations, the members of the Commission will not directly answer questions or make comment.

III NEW BUSINESS:

A. Open Space/Water Quality Report – Art Carlson

Mr. Carlson provided the Subcommittee with an overview of the Water Quality Report. He indicated the town has 4-major watersheds and our drinkable water comes from the Bridebrook and Pattagansett watersheds. He indicated that when the impervious cover within a watershed reaches or exceeds 10%, there is a direct correlation in the decrease of water quality. He related the sensitivity of the Town's stratified drift aquifer to the Quabbin reservoir in Massachusetts which, is 38 square-miles, holds 400-billion gallons of water, and has 180-miles of shoreline. Out of the 450,000-acre watershed, 56,000-acres are protected whereas East Lyme has built over top of their reservoir. He went on to state that the Natural Resource Commission has data from rapid bio-assessments over the last 8 or so years from various locations throughout Town. In summary, he suggested the following recommendations:

Protect the 4-Mile River watershed as it could produced 300-400,000 gallons of water/day.

Require residents to pay an additional fee for the consumption of water and not just pay for distribution.

Increase public education to address the misnomer that that Aquifer Protection Area (APA)

Zoning Overlay Zone is adequate for the protection of the Town's drinking water supply. Mr. Carlson indicated that the APA is only partial protection. He suggested there is a perception in Town that there is enough existing open space and our water source/supply is adequately protected when in fact it is not. As such, the Town should acquire and protect as much undeveloped land as possible as open space.

It was also suggested by the Committee that projects within a water supply watershed undergo a Source Water Quality plan review prior to any approval may make sense. N. Peck suggested the Natural Resource Commission consider developing an educational program on Fertilizers. M. Williams stated Judy Rondeau of the Niantic River Watershed Commission received a grant and is working on such a program.

Mr. Goeschel mentioned the idea of reducing the permissible impermeable coverage allowed on individual lots to below 10%, even though he has never seen a lot ever reach its maximum allowable coverage.

B. Darrow Pond Birding – Bruce Dasinger

Mr. Dasinger introduced himself as a birder and that he has been studying the Darrow Pond property and the birds that inhabit it. He's identified 47 species to date. He described birds preferring a grassland habitat along and the New England Cotton tail enjoys grassland as well as a scrub-shrub habitat. He recommends the Town or the Land Trust maintain the existing grassland habitats otherwise it will begin to revert back to forest in a 10-15 year period which can be observed by the stand of Autumn Olive already on the site. He indicated that the US Fish & Wildlife may have grants available this year for Habitat and Vegetation restoration.

IV OLD BUSINESS:

A. January 29 Public Forum Discussion –

The Committee discussed transcribing the DVD via YouTube and using YouTube to divide the comments into themes. YouTube can be coded to include quotes that highlight key information in the transcription.

B. Section Captain Reports - Status

i. Agricultural Resources – Rosemary Ostfeld

Rosemary met this evening with the Agri-business subcommittee prior to this meeting. They provided her with a 3-page response which, she will blend with the previous section.

The Committee moved into discussion on the methodology the group will follow to collate the recommendations and determine which recommendations are include and which are not. The Committee agreed they should all be made informed of all the recommendations and vote on those recommendation that the section captain is to include in their draft section.

N. Peck suggested that if the Committee is to stay on schedule, the Committee will need to meet more frequently.

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, 19 February 19 2020, 7 PM

ii. **Coastal Resources – Michelle Williams – No Discussion**

iii. **Historic Resources – Rich Gordon –**

It was agreed to post pone review and discussion to a Special Meeting which, will be held on March 3, 2020.

iv. **Natural Resources – Rosemary Ostfeld & Gary Goeschel - No Discussion**

v. **Open Space – Rosemary Ostfeld - No Discussion**

vi. **Residential Development – Michelle Williams –**

The Committee reviewed the draft prepared by Michelle and were in agreement regarding which recommendations to keep and which to eliminate. Overall, there were no significant changes to the recommendations as they pertain to residential development.

vii. **Commercial & Industrial Development – Kirk Scott/Larry Fitzgerald - No Discussion**

viii. **Economic Development – Kirk Scott/Larry Fitzgerald - No Discussion**

ix. **Clean Energy – Rosemary Ostfeld - No Discussion**

x. **Emergency Services – Kirk Scott - No Discussion**

xi. **Parks & Recreation, Community & Education Spaces – Rich Gordon - No Discussion**

xii. **Water/Wastewater Management – Michelle Williams - No Discussion**

xiii. **Transportation – Kirk Scott – Mr. Scott mentioned he was having difficulty receiving a responses regarding his follow-up inquiries with Chief Finkelstein and DW Director, Joe Bragaw.**

Mr. Goeschel suggested they may not have prioritized getting back to us in they were in the midst of preparing and presenting their departmental budgets to the Board of Selectmen.

C. Staff Updated on Correspondence/Town Staff - No Discussion

V NEXT STEPS/ASSIGNMENTS

It was agreed that G. Goeschel would schedule a Special Meeting for March 3, 2020 in which he would provide the Committee with a schedule for additional meetings.

VI ADJOURNMENT

Motion: N. Peck Motioned to adjourn at 9:55pm.

Seconded: K. Scott seconded the motion

In Favor: Unanimous