

**TOWN OF EAST LYME
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
EAST LYME TOWN HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

PRESENT

Art Carlson, Chairman
Laura Ashburn
Mark Christensen
Don Danila
Harvey Beeman, Alternate (*seated*)
Ron Nichols, Alternate

ABSENT

Penny Heller

FILED

Aug 11 2020 AT 3:10 AM/PM
Burke Atkinson ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER

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

Motion (1): Motion made by Commissioner Danila, seconded by Commissioner Christensen, to seat Alternate Commissioner Beeman for Commissioner Heller. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried

I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS – none

II. MINUTES

A. Minutes of February 12, 2020

Motion (2): Motion made by Commissioner Christensen, seconded by Commissioner Beeman, to approve the February 12, 2020 Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Commissioners Ashburn, Carlson, Christensen, and Danila. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Commissioner Beeman. Motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS – none

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Distribution of Water Study Report

1. Presentation to Boards and Commissions

Presentations regarding the Water Study Report have been provided to the Planning Commission, Board of Selectmen, and Zoning Commission. The possibility of providing a presentation to the Board of Education will be investigated.

B. Work on the Goodwin Trail – *no report; work is ongoing*

C. Sustainability

Due to the Coronavirus, the walk audit is temporarily on hold.

D. POCD Update

Chairman Carlson reported that he is working closely with Director of Planning Gary Goeschel and the Planning Commission on the POCD (Planning of Conservation & Development).

E. Solar Farm

Commissioner Beeman reported that the motion made by GRE GACRUX, LLC, to reopen the proceeding was granted by the CT Siting Council and a set of questions have been issued to the petitioners regarding the proposed development. As the Interveners, *Save the River – Save the Hills* (STR-STH) is also in the process of organizing their questions for the petitioners. It is presumed that STR-STH will also be receiving questions from GRE GACRUX, LLC through their attorney. The pre-filed testimony and all responses must be submitted to the CT Siting Council by March 24. An evidentiary hearing will be held at Waterford Town Hall, Large Conference Room, on March 31 at 3:00 p.m. GRE GACRUX, LLC, the Town of Waterford, and STR-STH will each have the opportunity to introduce exhibits and witnesses and conduct cross-examinations. After a short break, the hearing will be followed by a brief presentation by the petitioner and a public comment session at 6:30 p.m. Public officials will be provided the opportunity to speak prior to the individuals. Should a large crowd be expected, the meeting will be moved to the Waterford High School Auditorium. Should a second hearing be necessary, it will be held at the CT Siting Council offices in New Britain, where a live audio feed will be available.

Depending upon the progress of the Coronavirus, the March 31 public meeting may be canceled. The deadline for the submission of questions, pre-filed testimony and responses will not change. By Statute, the final decision must be made on August 31.

Because the STR-STH is the intervenor, the members may not speak on behalf of the organization, but may make comments *pro se*, i.e., “in one’s own behalf”. As such, they are in the process of engaging the services of an attorney to speak on their behalf.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Communications – *none*

B. Agribusiness

Two well-attended composting seminars were held in Waterford and East Lyme. The Committee is currently working with the owner who is trying to preserve his farm, located near Douglas Lane and CT-395 in Waterford. Information regarding the institution of an Agribusiness Group has been provided to the owner.

The Committee is also in the early planning stages of starting a community garden in conjunction with other community organizations, schools, and community to grow food items that would be donated to local organizations to support those in need. To date, they have received the support of Flanders Baptist and Community Church and the Friends of Samuel Smith Farmstead has donated 20 plots. Other organizations are being contacted for their support and various properties are being considered as possible garden locations. The food items will be donated to St. John's Food Pantry, which distributes approximately 1,000 lbs. of food per week. Commissioner Ashburn suggested the possibility of obtaining grant funds for the project.

Chairman Carlson suggested the possibility of starting an education process on the subject of lawn care, especially with respect to fertilization and planting for pollinators.

C. Chairman's report

Chairman Carlson reported that he was approached by a non-profit organization based in Middletown who is interested in utilizing the trail for a bicycle fundraising trail ride (not race as previously thought) on May 3. The ride would begin at White Gate Farm continue through the Girl Scout Camp and along the Goodwin Trail. He will work with the organization to either place flat stones in sensitive areas or signage for those areas that the bikers would be required to walk through, rather than ride over.

D. Ex-Officio Report – *not present due to illness*

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION (5): Motion made by Commissioner Beeman, seconded by Commissioner Christensen, to adjourn the March 11, 2020 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 7:46 p.m.
Discussion: None. Voice, vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Substitute Recording Secretary for the Town of East Lyme

