

**EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ZOOM MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2020**

Present: Art Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller, Host
Don Danila
Mark Christensen
Laura Ashburn
Harvey Beeman, Alternate
Ron Nichols, Alternate

FILED

OCT 22 2020 AT 4:20 AM (PM)
(Signature)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Tom Kalal

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

There were no public delegations.

II. MINUTES

A. Minutes of September 9, 2020. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the September 9, 2020 Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (2): Mr. Danila moved to accept the September 9, 2020 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (4-0) Unanimous.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of updates to the POCD. Mr. Carlson reported he would like to meet with Mr. Goeschel regarding our input for the POCD. It was suggested that he meet with Michele Williams. Mr. Danila reviewed the POCD and gave several comments for improving it. Judy Rondeau will submit her comments. Don Landers will also give his comments on Harbor Management. Mr. Danila found some areas where this Commission's Water Report should be included. Ms. Heller reported the Sustainability CT Program comments were given. Mr. Danila reported Michele Williams sent a draft to the Board of Selectmen for review. There will be a Public Hearing on September 30, 2020. The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on November 10, 2020. They will vote on whether to adopt a plan. Feedback has been requested by October 7. They will take comments through early November. Mr. Danila suggests getting comments to Michele Williams. Mr. Christensen asked what everyone feels about a three-acre zone in properties along the Four Mile River Watershed, Powers Lake, north of Pattagansett Road and west of Scott's. He felt it should remain a low level of development. Mr. Christensen felt it should be increased from one acre. Mr. Carlson stated we want to protect that land. Mr. Christensen stated in the 2000 POCD they suggested 3-4-acre zone for the north end

of town. Ms. Heller asked Mr. Christensen to follow up with Michele Williams. Ms. Ashburn felt ideally it should all remain on three-acre lots. Ms. Heller felt she would like to see the original wording and build on it. Mr. Danila read the chapter on Open Space and the Value of Undeveloped Properties. Mr. Carlson felt that area should not be developed because of our drinking water supply. Mr. Danila referred the Commission to Chapter 5. Ms. Ashburn suggested naming these two areas. Mr. Danila felt we need to provide for a specific response. Mr. Carlson stated we have 19,000 people in our town and cannot keep developing the watershed upstream. The State of Connecticut is now funding open space, because development affects our drinking supply. Mr. Carlson felt these lands are vitally important and should not be developed for any reason. Mr. Danila felt we have very limited time to make any change and there is wording on page 58, section 6, item 5 for residential development to make sure there is minimal development to the watershed aquifer. Mr. Nichols felt this is particularly important to include in the POCD. It gives general guidance. It does not set rules. Mr. Christensen asked does this meet the plan of development. The POCD should include 3-4 acres. It was felt on page 58, item 5 a sentence needs to be added. Mr. Christensen felt specifically the Four Mile River Watershed and Pattagansett Watershed should be 3-4 acres, because it is currently supplying the aquifer.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Waterford Solar Farm Project. Mr. Danila reported we have passed the October 8 date for the Council findings. The Council has two more meetings on October 22 and November 5. He agreed to check the agendas.

B. Pattagansett Lake Association Activity Update. Mr. Danila signed up and remotely attended a meeting hosted by the Western Connecticut State University about invasive aquatic plant species and harmful algal blooms. These seminars are held on the last Monday of the month and there will be two more, in November and December. CT DEEP has raised fees for boats registered in Connecticut by \$5 and \$25 for boats registered in other states. These funds will go towards aquatic invasive species programs. They are asking for an RFP to apply for this money for non-profit organizations, universities, and towns.

C. Work on Town Trails. Mr. Carlson reported the Goodwin Trail is getting much use. We are having a problem with motorcycles. The signs are not working. He plans to talk to Planning and Parks and Recreation to prepare to have it policed. He will also talk to employees at Rocky Neck to find out how they control motorcycles. Mr. Christensen suggested putting in telephone poles. He added this has been done in Groton and it has worked. Mr. Carlson would like to have discussions with Yale.

D. Sustainability CT Bikeway Project. Ms. Heller reported things are falling into place. We will develop large community gardens. Twenty-four people are willing to help. They will have to wait until October 25 for final permission from the Baptist Church to use four acres behind the church. There has been no objection to use its open field. The back one-third will be developed for a pollinator pathway to help insects and the garden. It will be kept as open space and for education. Volunteers of the Samuel Smith House will continue its work. Pending approval on October 25, we will go forward with

the crowd funding. Their website is ioby. We are hoping for \$26,000. We need police and Parks and Recreation to sign off on our Bikeway Plan. Ms. Ashburn and Mr. Beeman are on the Committee. Our pedestrian plan will be worked on next spring. Ms. Heller was part of the review for their 2021 agenda. She cautioned them to be flexible in their zoning regulations. Mr. Nichols asked should the POCD include something on sustainability? Ms. Heller stated she wrote up a section on what we have done. Eighty-nine towns are now registered.

E. RBV Sampling. Mr. Danila received an email from Meghan Lally from CT DEEP making sure everyone follows COVID cautions. He stated based on recent rain and that we have a Latimer Brook flow gauge we can probably sample soon. The flows have doubled in the brook. Ms. Heller agreed to work with him on the sampling. Mr. Kalal agreed to check on Cranberry Meadow Brook tomorrow and give an update. Mr. Danila and Ms. Heller will get together next week to also check on the Fourmile River site on Green Valley Road.

V. Reports and Communications

- A. Communications.** Ms. Heller spoke with Ms. Hardy after our September meeting. She did follow-up on the I-95 spill letter. Ms. Hardy felt that the highway change will never happen. Mr. Christensen reported they have done a survey of the highway and there are no official documents for spill mitigation. Ms. Heller was informed by Ms. Hardy that part of the plan is that there will be spill guards and the entire project is on hold. Mr. Christensen spoke to Rep. Cheeseman who stated there is no further development.
- B. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported the Kalal's have recruited people to work on the Giving Garden. They will have a fundraiser on November 28. at 10 a.m. Oxen and mules will be there. They are getting leaf droppings. Mr. Christensen stated the Agribusiness Subcommittee will apply for a grant next year.
- C. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson reported a sub-group is particularly interested in a sequestration to make money off of property. They are thinking about how we can present this in less than 62 pages to submit to the town. Ms. Heller stated the focus is on the protection of pitch pine scrub trees. The town has improved Veteran's Memorial Park. Mr. Decker has worked to make it a nice meeting area. We now have a planting bed to start seedling for pitch pine.
- D. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy was unable to be present and there was no report.

MOTION (3): Mr. Christensen moved to adjourn the October 14, 2020 Zoom meeting of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (4-0) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gherji, Recording Secretary