

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING - VIA ZOOM
JANUARY 13, 2021

Present: Art Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller
Don Danila
Laura Ashburn
Mark Christensen

FILED

Also Present: Harvey Beeman, Alternate
Ron Nichols, Alternate
Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio

January 19, 2021 AT 2:00 AM/PM
Brooke Johnson ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting of January 13, 2021 to order at 7:09 p.m. A quorum was established.

I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. There were no guests.

MOTION (1): Ms. Heller moved to add to this evening's Agenda, under New Business, Item B. Election of Officers for 2021. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. Ms. Ashburn's second was withdrawn.

MOTION (2): Mr. Christensen moved to delay Election of Officers for 2021 until the February Meeting of this Commission. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (3): Mr. Danila moved to add under New Business, item B. Connecticut DEEP Community Based Monitoring and under Old Business, item C. RBV Sampling. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0) Unanimous.

II. MINUTES -November 11, 2020. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections the November 11, 2020 Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

MOTION (4): Mr. Christensen moved to accept the November 11, 2020 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. Mr. Carlson abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review of updates to the POCD.** Ms. Heller reported she does not know if this Commission's comments were included in the POCD.
- B. Connecticut DEEP Community-Based Monitoring.** Mr. Danila reported he received an email from Megan Lally of Connecticut DEEP, which included a questionnaire on community-based monitoring. Mr. Danila filled out the questionnaire on behalf of the Niantic River Watershed Committee and also the Pottagansett Lake Association. Some topics might be of interest to the Commission. One question that was asked referred to road salts. Mr. Carlson agreed to submit his input on road salts and Ms. Heller agreed to complete the DEEP survey, indicating an interest in that particular program.

Mr. Danila reported CT DEEP was also interested in input on school based urban water quality sampling. Ms. Ashburn was interested in that subject and Mr. Danila agreed to forward the CT DEEP email to her.

Mr. Danila received a separate email from CT DEEP on behalf of the Niantic Watershed Committee regarding the Connecticut DEEP Fish survey monitoring program. He mentioned that the NRWC indicated interest in sampling Latimer Brook and asked if there was interest in sampling any other streams in town. Ms. Hardy felt the Commission might be interested in highway protection. The formulation has been changed. Mr. Bragaw, Superintendent of Public Works, is interested in input from this Commission. It was felt we might monitor road salt. Ms. Hardy stated we are one of the few towns that have taken action on it. An additive has been added to diminish salt. Mr. Carlson stated the public is becoming interested in the salt issue.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **SustainabilityCT Program: EL Giving Garden Funding Start and Pollinator Pathway.** Ms. Heller reported funding for the East Lyme Giving Garden is going well. From November 15 to January \$8,485 has been received. Forty-nine individuals have made donations and the SustainabilityCT Program has matched up to \$7,500 for a total of \$16,985 of its goal of \$18,295 (93% of its goal).

Mr. Christensen reported we planted wild flowers in December at the Baptist Church field, and we raised \$15,000 from mid-November to the end of December. We built a storage shed using donated material. Another fundraiser will be held. Ms. Heller informed him unless you start a new project you cannot fundraise again. The Pollinator Pathway volunteers plan to have a separate project from March to May. The Town of East Lyme may only have one project at a time. The Pollinator Pathway group is requesting moderate funding, and they wish to present the State of Connecticut crowd funding.

Ms. Heller asked Ms. Ashburn and Mr. Beeman what they wish to see in the SustainabilityCT Program. She stated we need to keep our certification in 2022, and she suggested working on the silver and natural resources. She asked Commission members to look at the SustainabilityCT Program website.

- B. **Discussion of Forestry Report.** Mr. Carlson agreed to distribute the Forestry Report to Mr. Goeschel, Mr. Putnam and members of this Committee. Mr. Nichols suggested that it be added to the minutes.

- C. **RBV Sampling.** To correct statements, he made during the November meeting, Mr. Danila was told by Meghan Lally of CT DEEP that the Connecticut DEEP RBV Report was actually correct in its reported findings on Cranberry Brook with respect to insect types collected.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. **Communications.** Mr. Danila reported he received an email survey regarding the creation of the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve, which is centered in East Lyme and Waterford. The email is asking for participants to indicate interest in a series of public meetings to gain feedback on goals for the CERR. Mr. Danila plans to participate in some of the meetings. He will send the information about this survey to other Commission members.

- B. **Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported the Agribusiness Subcommittee hopes to pursue a grant on residential vs. open space and commercial properties.

Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson reported the chemical PFAS has been found in 2017 in soils at Stones Ranch. This is a toxic chemical that stays in the environment for an extended time. We will have to study this issue in some detail as a part of Stones Ranch is located in the Four Mile River Watershed which has public drinking water potential.

The Commission should discuss the idea of setting up a Trails Subcommittee.

The East Lyme Land Trust has recently been quite successful in securing funding for the purchase of three open spaces in East Lyme. The Open Space Report written by this Commission has been very important in these open space acquisitions, providing an extensive town wide resource of information for inclusion in the proposals.

Mr. Christensen said Barbara Wilder is interested in preserving her land. John Bialowens may also be interested.

- C. **Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy reported the Town Hall is closed except by appointment. She asked Mr. Carlson if this Commission's budget has been submitted? Mr. Carlson stated it has been submitted for \$1500. Ms. Heller suggested that Mr. Goeschel should have a college intern to help with GIS maps.

MOTION (5): Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the January 13, 2021 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0). Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary