

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
REGULAR MEETING - VIA ZOOM  
MARCH 10, 2021

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

FILED

Absent: Mark Christensen

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

Mar 15 2021 AT 2:45 AM (PM)  
(Carmen Miller)  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Carlson called the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting of March 10, 2021 to order at 7:11 p.m.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Ashburn moved to seat Harvey Beeman for Mark Christensen. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (4-0) Unanimous**

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.
- II. **MINUTES -February 10, 2021.** Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the February 10, 2021 Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

**MOTION (2): Ms. Heller moved to accept the February 10, 2021 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Beeman. (5-0) Unanimous**

**MOTION (3): Mr. Danila moved to add Trail Subcommittee to this evening's Agenda, as item B. of New Business. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0) Unanimous.**

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Review of Updates to Open Space Plan Land List/EL Land Trust Purchases.** Mr. Carlson received a Memo from the Planning Commission. They would like to meet this Commission in person to update the POCD. At that time, we will see the updated Open Space Plan. Mr. Carlson will invite them to the next meeting of this Commission. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Goeschel reviewed the listing of all properties. The East Lyme Land Trust purchases will be updated. He discussed a 300-acre property in the northeast corner of Town. The Land Trust has purchased forty acres of property that abuts the Darrow Pond property.
- B. **Trail Subcommittee.** Mr. Carlson asked Mr. Beeman if he would be willing to Chair the Trail Subcommittee. All other Commission members were invited to be on the Trail Subcommittee. The Land Trust has begun working on keeping ATVs off of footpaths on their properties. Ms. Hardy suggested posting a sign that states no motorized vehicles allowed on footpaths. Mr. Carlson stated by next meeting he will have a plan. He spoke to the Chief of Police and others. He checked on state property signage. Ms. Hardy suggested checking on whether or not fines

can be posted. Mr. Carlson stated legal issues need to be answered. Mr. Beeman asked if there are other individuals maintaining the trails? Mr. Carlson replied only him. Mr. Carlson is hopeful that members of the public will join the Trail Subcommittee.

**MOTION (4): Ms. Ashburn moved to create a Trail Subcommittee and that Mr. Beeman Chair it. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.**

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Sustainability\_CT Program: EL Giving Garden Funding Start and Pollinator Pathway** Ms. Heller reported Margorie Meekoff is Chair of the EL Pollinator Pathway group. They wish to focus on Darrow Pond in the area around the parking lot. Mark Christensen is helping them with his equipment. Mr. Carlson will review a map of the area with Mr. Goeschel. They were informed they should not have a controlled burn. CT\_DEEP recommended very targeted herbicides. Mr. Christensen is licensed to use herbicides. Ms. Heller is working on obtaining a grant for them. They have already seeded the back area of the Giving Garden. As of yesterday, the area around the Pitch Pine Park and rain garden at Oswegatchie were seeded.

**B. Pitch Pine Park at Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve.** Ms. Heller reported the OHNP has received permission to acquire small trees and bring them to the park. Mr. Greg Decker of the Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve has found an area where pitch pine seedlings can be dug up for transplanting. She added Mr. Decker has also collected seeds. Mr. Decker has arranged for Mark Comstock to get saplings from Rhode Island. He will keep them over the summer. Mr. Carlson stated there are a lot of pitch pines at Darrow Pond.

**C. Discussion of Darrow Pond Forestry Report.** Mr. Carlson will meet with Mr. Goeschel to discuss putting the Darrow Pond Forestry Report on the Town website. Commission members asked where the original report is located? Mr. Carlson agreed to ask Mr. Goeschel.

#### **V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Communications.** Mr. Carlson reported he received a Memo from the Planning Commission regarding meeting with this Commission.

**B. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen was not present and there was no report.

**C. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson reported last month there was discussion on Stones Ranch. It was noted there is 4.5 parts of PFAS per trillion found in samples. Mr. Danila informed the Commission the EPA's critical level for drinking water is 70 parts per trillion. Mr. Nichols asked if the 4.5 ppt was a soil sample? Mr. Carlson did not know. It was a federal report. Mr. Carlson added over the last two years the Land Trust brought in property valued at \$4 million.

**D. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy stated The Parsonage for the Baptist Church in Flanders on the Boston Post Road has been sold. Ms. Hardy reported the Zoning Commission approved a mixed-use property proposal. The original property will be torn down. There will be commercial use on the first floor and five one-bedroom and one two-bedroom apartments on the second floor. We are seeing small pieces of property being totally built out. There will be 19 parking spaces in an already congested area. The Zoning Commission agreed to form a subcommittee to look into existing Zoning Regulations to determine if they need updating.

Ms. Hardy informed the Commission we have an increase to the Grand List this year. We have expenses related to the pandemic.

She added the Public Safety Building is coming along and under budget.

Ms. Heller asked are we expected to get some state money. Ms. Hardy replied we turned in a request for funding. The state will determine how it is spent.

Mr. Nickerson will send a Memo to all boards and commissions on opening town buildings. A discussion was held on having an in-person meeting during April. This will depend upon forthcoming decisions made by the Board of Selectman regarding this.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (5):** Mr. Danila moved to adjourn the March 10, 2021 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0), unanimous.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**