

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 14, 2021

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

FILED

July 21 20 21 AT 12:00 AM/PM  
[Signature]  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Harvey Beeman, Alternate

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Carlson called the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting of July 14, 2021 to order at 7:00 pm.

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.
- II. **MINUTES -June 9, 2021.** Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the June 9, 2021 Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Heller moved to accept the June 9, 2021 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Danila. Ms. Ashburn abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.**

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion of EPA webinar “Road salts and Freshwater Salination Syndrome”; newly published EL Annual Water Quality Report.** Ms. Heller reported she saw the EPA webinar The speakers suggested that an alternative should be used or swales on the side of the road should be designed as catch basins to collect salts and oil. Salt has been increasing gradually in East Lyme drinking water for over a decade but almost doubled in 2020. Salt spread on roads in winter is the primary source. Individuals with heart or kidney conditions should not drink the water with salt levels reported in 2020. The other issue is magnesium which can be more toxic and is chemically joined with the salt run off. Mr. Carlson plans to discuss this issue with the Water Engineer Ben North. Mr. Danila suggested that Mr. North be asked for the well-specific data they gather but do not publish. Mr. Carlson would like a written opinion on the impact to the watershed. He will invite Mr. North to make a presentation at a meeting of this Commission.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **Updates to East Lyme Land Trust Purchases.** Mr. Carlson reported that the East Lyme Land Trust have put in a proposal for 130 acres.
- B. **SustainabilityCT Program: East Lyme Pollinator Pathway Project.** Ms. Heller reported we have to work on recertification. Ms. Heller will try to meet with Gary Goeschel. She informed the Commission that SustainabilityCT has grant money set aside for Community Composting Programs and not many people are applying for it. We can fund anything as long as the Town approves of it, and the project fits into one of the thirteen actions included in the SustainabilityCT program and it is open to the public. The East Lyme Pollinator Pathways will receive matched funding from SustainabilityCT.

## **V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Communications.** Mr. Danila reported the Niantic River Watershed Committee (NRWC) received a grant to study stormwater that is being discharged into the Niantic River. The NRWC Monitoring Subcommittee met last night. A meeting will be held with East Lyme Town staff to discuss findings of the town's required MS-4 monitoring. The NRWC wants to set up the terms and focus on bacteria that is associated with rainfall. The Town is required to do stormwater monitoring and the NRWC will supplement what they do. Mr. Danila has reviewed the Town's MS-4 Report. Mr. Carlson asked can the Town do an analysis of the samples? Mr. Danila replied that bacteria sampling is very specialized and requires certified laboratories to process samples. Labs in Killingly, Madison, and Manchester are being considered for the NRWC sampling.
- B. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported last Friday the East Lyme Giving Garden became a 501(C)(3) organization. Dominion donated \$3,000, which will be matched. First Selectman Nickerson, Senator Formica and State Representative Cheeseman were in attendance. Ms. Heller stated the Giving Garden raised 800 pounds of produce which has been given to Gemma Moran's Pantry. Pollinator Pathways seeded wildflowers behind the Giving Garden.

The Samuel Smith Farm was replanted last week. "Farm Day" will be held on July 17 at the Samuel Smith House from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rock Acres Farm will have horses and give pony rides, and sell goat milk soap. There will be chickens and goats. Mr. Christensen will bring sheep. Pollinator Pathways volunteers will attend to educate the public about their work.

The Cummings horse farm will be sold There will not be a July meeting of the Subcommittee.

- C. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson had nothing to add.
- D. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy was unable to be present, and there was no report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (2): Mr. Danila moved to adjourn the July 14, 2021 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0), unanimous.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**