

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 11, 2021

Present: Penny Heller  
Mark Christensen  
Laura Ashburn  
Harvey Beeman, Alternate

FILED

Absent: Art Carlson, Chairman  
Don Danila  
Ron Nichols

Aug 16, 20 21 AT 11:46 AM/PM  
Brookston ATC  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-officio  
Lindsay Rush  
Brian Civitello

**CALL TO ORDER.** Acting Chair called the meeting of August 11, 2021 to order at 7:00 pm.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Heller moved to seat Harvey Beeman for Art Carlson. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (3-0) Unanimous.**

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** Ms. Rush expressed concern about back fill activity on Grassy Hill Road without a permit. A parcel is being developed and there are several streams in the area. Ms. Heller felt the Inland/Wetland Commission should review it if the activity is within 300'. They should send their assessment to Gary Goeschel. Ms. Rush reported she has been in contact with him, and he drove by the area. Ms. Rush added there was a backhoe and large trenches were dug. It is a sizable piece of property owned by Duval. Ms. Rush stated Lot 52.03 is the parcel and is on the Town GIS map showing a wetlands designation. Ms. Heller suggested that Ms. Rush contact the Inland/Wetland Commission. Ms. Rush reported she has sent two emails to the Chairman but to date has not received any reply. She stated the landowner, East Lyme Land Trust, is requesting a zoning change to RU-80. The abutting neighbors had no notice of a zoning change. Ms. Hardy did not feel Ms. Rush was the only one in Town concerned about being able to build on this piece of property. Zoning will review it and the Board of Selectmen will receive information on it next week. Ms. Rush added the neighbors are interested in purchasing this property. Ms. Rush stated the President of the East Lyme Land Trust was present when the backhoe was at the property. Ms. Heller asked when is a permit applied for? Mr. Christensen replied that it should have been prior to working in the wetlands. Ms. Rush informed the Commission this piece of parcel is 84.69 acres and some of it goes into Montville.

**MOTION (2): Mr. Christensen moved to add digging of property on Grassy Hill Road to the September Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (4-0) Unanimous.**

- II. **MINUTES -July 14, 2021.** Ms. Heller asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the July 14 2021 Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

**MOTION (3): Ms. Ashburn moved to accept the July 14, 2021 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Beeman. (4-0-) Unanimous.**

- III. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion of newly published East Lyme Annual Water Quality Report, rising salt levels.** Ms. Heller reported that at last month's meeting Mr. Carlson said he would speak to the Water & Sewer Commission and Mr. Danila wished to obtain wells specific data. Ms. Hardy informed the Commission that those data are available on request. The Board of Selectmen would like to use American Rescue Funds to help solve this problem. Mr. Christensen stated the well at Exit 74 is 35% of the East Lyme water supply and most vulnerable to salt pollution. Ms. Hardy stated she has been told the town will need a new well drilled and its location may be determined by avoiding exposure to road salt.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Follow-up on Potential Composting Project in Schools.** Ms. Ashburn reported many individuals would like her to take care of composting at the high school but she cannot take on such duties while teaching or in the summer. Ms. Hardy suggested that the Commission look into community composting on town property, and she suggested that we contact Joe Bragaw to see if he is available to meet with CCNR members. She added that federal American Rescue funds may not be eligible to be used for such projects. Ms. Hardy stated a citizen group still wishes to have discussions with this Commission but she is not sure how involved they wish to be.
- B. SustainabilityCT Program: Start of 2022 Recertification Process.** Ms. Heller distributed a list of topics for members of the Commission to consider working on for town recertification. She stated there are 150 individuals in the state that will ultimately review the actions we cite as qualifying for recertification so we must meet their criteria in detail for all 12 actions. She asked Mr. Christensen to work with Ms. Nancy Kalal to develop agricultural friendly topics. Mr. Beeman agreed to contact Liz Kutcha about historical properties in town to meet another one of the actions. Ms. Heller stated the actions need to draw in the community. Ms. Hardy suggested we focus on the community's concerns on equity vs. equality to draw in people that may have been marginalized.

#### V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Communications.** There were no new communications.
- B. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported Farm Day was held at the Samuel Smith House. There were three farms represented. There were 125 visitors and 50 children. The Samuel Smith House received \$500 in donations. Rock Hill Acres sold goat milk soap and gave pony rides. Nancy Kalal brought her oxen. A farmer off of Cardinal Road brought goats.

The Subcommittee has been thinking about a Composting Seminar but has not been able to successfully organize it to date. The EL Giving Garden was previously suggested as a location and as a collaborating group but they have stated they do not want other groups going into the garden for the time being.

A Revolutionary War Encampment is planned for September 11. Ms. Heller reported she was informed that only one East Lyme farm was listed on the Farm Link website that puts youngsters in touch with farmers.

- C. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson was unable to be present and there was no report.

- D. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy reported not everything can be used for the American Rescue Fund. The Board of Selectmen is requesting funding for the following items: WIFI improvements at East Lyme Town Hall; virtual meeting package at East Lyme Town Hall; microwave dishes for public safety management; security cameras at various town locations for public safety; wellness/prevention/monitoring Coordinator for East Lyme Youth Services; Shoreline kitchen and food pantry regional refrigerated truck. These items will be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

Ms. Hardy informed the Commission every town needs to update their Affordable Housing Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (3):** Mr. Beeman moved to adjourn the August 11, 2021 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary