

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 8, 2021

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

Absent: Mark Christensen  
Ron Nichols

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-officio

FILED

Sept 17 2021 AT 2:45 AM (PM)  
Karen Miller  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Carlson called the meeting of September 8, 2021 to order at 7:05 pm.

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

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.
- II. **MINUTES -August 11, 2021.** Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the August 11, 2021 Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

The following correction was noted: On page 2 under IV. Old Business, the first sentence should be deleted.

**MOTION (2):** Mr. Beeman moved to accept the August 11, 2021 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. Messrs. Carlson and Danila abstained from voting. (3-0-2) Motion carried.

**MOTION (3):** Mr. Danila moved to add under New Business, item b. RVB Sampling and item c. Report on Latimer Brook. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Follow-up on discussion of newly published East Lyme Annual Water Quality Report, rising salt levels.** Mr. Carlson spoke to Mr. North to request wells specific data for ten years. Mr. Carlson informed him that the way in which the data on salt is presented is not useful. Ms. Heller asked what does the Town plan to do about it. Mr. Carlson will invite Mr. North to attend a meeting of this Commission.
- b. **RVB Sampling.** Mr. Danila reported DEEP has released the 2020 Sampling Report. The Latimer Brook station behind Tri-Town was very good. Colony Road had very few insects. The station at Cranberry Meadow Brook was not great. There probably has been too much water in 2021, but we will try to do four stations.
- c. **Report on Latimer Brook.** Mr. Danila reported he sampled at Latimer Brook before the start of precipitation from Storm Ida. He measured the water depth at a standard location and it was 70 centimeters high and is now 60 centimeters high due to sedimentation. If you look at the dam there is

much sand and gravel that has been deposited by the storm. Much of the impoundment is no more than knee deep. Mr. Carlson stated there is water under the Post Road. Mr. Danila reported that stream has deteriorated. Two logs or a downed tree may be blocking both halves of the culvert going under I-95. He will contact DEEP to request that they be removed.

**d. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Follow-up on Potential Composting Project.** Ms. Hardy reported several people are interested in composting. Ms. Heller reported SustainableCT have put money aside for it. It is complicated. A long-term commitment is needed. It's necessary to have people to manage what goes in. Ms. Ashburn stated you need to turn it over. Ms. Hardy suggested inviting Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director, to a meeting of this Commission. He can give us information on what other towns are doing. Ms. Heller stated there are other towns doing this, e.g., the Town of Stamford is the biggest. They have a steamer. There are three other towns that have done it. There is the possibility of seeking out someone who is interested in doing this commercially. Ms. Hardy agreed to ask Joe Bragaw to attend a meeting of this Commission. Ms. Hardy felt this may be able to be done regionally to share in the cost. Possibly Mr. Bragaw can use American Rescue funds. A composting plan is needed.
- B. SustainabilityCT Program: Start of 2022 Recertification Process.** Ms. Heller distributed East Lyme Sustainable Quicksheet Action List. Ms. Hardy stated possibly some items can be funded by the American Rescue Fund. She agreed to share it with the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Heller reported she is waiting to hear from Mr. Goeschel's Assistant. She also has called New Haven to see if they will send an intern. It is due by January 2023.

**V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Communications.** Mr. Danila informed the Commission that yesterday's Hartford Courant had an article that the State of Connecticut is checking sites that have PFAS. DEEP and Public Health developed a map (not yet public) and will look for PFAS at 2000 sites. They are linking this chemical to health issues.
- b. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen was unable to be present, and there was no report.
- c. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson reported he has met with four Eagle Scouts on various projects which include benches and signage on the Goodwin Trail and a picnic table and its cover at the backpacking campsite off the Goodwin Trail. He stated the Land Trust plans to have public discussion on September 30, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center and will be sending out postcards to residents of East Lyme. There will be discussion on the Hathaway Farm property. They will discuss natural resources and finances.
- d. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy reported the Board of Selectmen is continuing to work on items for the American Rescue Fund. The Board hopes to make money available for Brookside Farm, and the Samuel Smith House, properties owned by the Town. A Town Meeting will be held to vote on the distribution of money. Well #5 is having trouble. Mr. Carlson added the well is clogged. The Land Trust began developing a watershed plan Many towns are doing it. Ms. Hardy reported some items are money for veterans' organizations, money for infrastructure. A town meeting date will be set. At the August meeting this Commission had guests. Ms. Hardy will contact Mr. Goeschel.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (4):**

**Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the September 9, 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**