

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

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

FILED

Dec 14, 20 21 AT 11:34 AM/PM

Absent: Ron Nichols, Alternate
Harvey Beeman, Alternate

Brenda Hansen ATC

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-officio

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the meeting of December 8, 2021 to order at 7:00 pm.

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

The following corrections were noted: The vote on motions 2-5 should be changed to 5-0.

MOTION (1): Mr. Danila moved to accept the November 10, 2021 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as corrected. Seconded by Ms. Heller. Mr. Carlson abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

- III. **NEW BUSINESS** There was no discussion of new business.
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **SustainabilityCT Program: Start of 2022 Recertification Process.** Ms. Heller reported progress has been made. We have scheduled four workshops once per month from January through April, in the Olive Tubbs Chendali room from 7-9 p.m. On January 26 Mr. Kalal will discuss composting made easy. The Parks and Recreation staff will obtain a projector. The talk is designed for beginners. On February 16 discussion will be on invasive species. On March 30 pollinator gardens will be discussed. On April 27 sustainable farming will be the topic of discussion. The Agribusiness Subcommittee will have a follow-up more in depth discussion on a Saturday for those who want to learn more. Mr. Christensen reported there will be discussion on chickens, honeybees and fruit trees. All of the workshops will be advertised in Town Events, on the Town Hall neon sign, by posters and in the library. Mr. Danila suggested that the Lyme Times and Post Road Review be asked to advertise it. Ms. Ashburn will invite AP environmental students to attend for extra credit.

Ms. Heller had discussion with Mike Mainz to update the town website information on invasive species. He has re-posted updated information on how to get rid of invasive species on homeowners' property.

Mr. Danila recently visited Latimer Brook with Ms. Ashburn and 28 high school students for a demonstration of RVB sampling.

Greg Decker led 20 students on a hike to Oswegatchie Hills.

Ms. Ashburn invited a professor from Three Rivers to discuss water quality with her students.

Ms. Heller reported an art teacher will try to put environmental murals on buildings.

Ms. Heller informed the Commission by May she hopes to have a student intern. According to Sustainability they are coming up with a new category.

MOTION (2): Mr. Christensen moved to invite Ben North to the next meeting of this Commission and that Chairman Carlson request that Mr. North bring well specific water quality data from 2015 to the present. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Communications.** Mr. Carlson had three conversations with Ben North. He has not been able to supply this Commission's request for salt information.

Mr. Danila recently obtained a U.S. Geological Service publication on groundwater inputs of nitrogen into Long Island Sound. The study used data on the Niantic River Watershed. It showed 22,000 kilograms of nitrogen introduced into the river through groundwater per year. He will send this publication to Commission members.

Ms. Ashburn reported an art student interviewed Joe Bragaw on recycling.

Mr. Danila plans to go out with a ELHS graduate and now Union College student interested in the fate of chemicals used in sunscreen. They will sample sediments in Clark Pond that will be analyzed. The student will report back on his findings in summer 2022.

- b. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported on January 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a meeting for Preservationists. There will be speakers and coffee and dessert at Niantic Community Church, with a snow date of January 15, 2022. If needed an alternate site will be at the Community Center. The subcommittee is looking for new members.
- c. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson reported after 8" of rain in four hours from Tropical Storm Ida there was much damage to the Goodwin Trail. One area is in the Darrow Pond area. The second area is about a one-half mile section south of Grassy Hill Road. The Grassy Hill section was walked by myself, Gary Goeschel, Town Planner, and Dick Raymond, retired State Forester. The estimated cost of this repair is on the order of \$50,000. The water bars put in when the trail was built did a good job but they were overwhelmed by this storm. These problems can be solved. The damage to the trail in the Darrow Pond section has less damage and can be addressed.
- d. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy reported the Board of Selectmen is reviewing members of boards and commissions next Wednesday. She noted one alternate is needed for this Commission.

Mr. Carlson felt the Town Planner is overwhelmed with work and needs help. Ms. Hardy felt the Zoning Official also needs assistance. There has been much development in the last 15 years. She felt a wage analysis is also needed. Ms. Heller suggested using interns. Ms. Hardy reported the First Selectmen has met with department heads to obtain a list of their immediate needs. A meeting will be held on the Hathaway property on December 15.

Mr. Danila reported Connecticut DEEP has announced a Grant Program we could apply for to control invasive aquatic species. Grantees would need 25% matching funds. He asked is it possible to approach the Town for funding? Ms. Hardy suggested putting together a proposal and bringing it to the Board of Selectmen. She hopes American Rescue Funds can be used.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (3): Mr. Danila moved to adjourn the December 8, 2021 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gherzi, Recording Secretary