

TOWN OF EAST LYME
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 13, 2022

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller
Don Danila
Mark Christensen
Laura Ashburn
Harvey Beeman, Alternate
Marjorie Meekhoff, Alternate

FILED

April 26, 2022 AT 9:45 AM PM
Brooke Hansen ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.
- II. **MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.** Chairman Carlson asked for additions, delegations or corrections to the March 9, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Conservation of Natural Resources.

The following corrections were noted: On page 1, in the heading the word 'AGENDA' should be deleted. Ms. Hardy should be noted as present.

MOTION (1): Mr. Christensen moved to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2022, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.

- III. **NEW BUSINESS.** Mr. Danila informed the Commission of a Winter Salt Watch Program and asked if anyone wishes to participate to contact him. He will send an email with a link to this program to Commission members.
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS.**
 - a. SustainabilityCT Program: Start of 2022 Recertification Process. Ms. Heller reported we have approximately 15 of the needed 35 actions written up. We need photos, etc. She added we have been invited to participate in a Solarize program through SustainableCT, but the Town Planner Mr. Goeschel needs to initiate it. The program is designed to educate people on ways to add solar panels to their home or business. A first step could be a town policy promoting a clean energy alternative. Mr. Carlson recognized Mr. Beeman. Mr. Beeman added the last time we had an intern to help complete the certification process and wondered if we would get one this time. Ms. Heller plans to contact SustainableCT staff to see if they will supply an intern and to clarify the status of the current intern from Tufts University working with Mr. Goeschel.

Ms. Heller asked do we have money in the budget for printing handouts for two upcoming workshops at the Samuel Smith Farmstead. Mr. Carlson replied we do.

Ms. Ashburn informed the Commission EarthFest will be held on June 11 at McCook's. Mr. Christensen will inform those attending the next Agribusiness subcommittee meeting and ask if they want to participate. This event conflicts with the 'Open House' events at the three historical houses in town on the same day.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. Communications. There were no new communications.
- b. Agribusiness Subcommittee. Mr. Christensen reported we have planted apple trees at the Samuel Smith Farmstead. The Parks and Recreation Department received a donation of the apple trees. The Samuel Smith House needs a new roof and re-siding of the barn.

Mr. Christensen reported an agribusiness member is moving and the committee may have someone who is willing to replace him. However, membership is still small and they are seeking new members who have experience or interest in agriculture.

He informed the Commission the subcommittee has put compost in the Samuel Smith Community Garden.

The subcommittee does not plan to be in the Memorial Day Parade because parade officials have blocked the participation of including farm animals or riding horses.

- c. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson reported as of Wednesday the Land Trust has completed acquisition of 301 acres of property now called 'Oak Woods' off Grassy Hill and Holmes Road. Ms. Heller asked what is the value of the property? Mr. Carlson replied \$1,650,000.

Mr. Carlson recognized Ms. Meekhoff. She stated she contacted Parks and Recreation, Mr. Goeschel and Public Works to suggest an inventory of trees that are on town property. Ms. Meekhoff stated some trees that are being planted by the town are not native and only native species should be considered.

- d. Ex-Officio Report. Ms. Hardy informed the Commission that the Board of Selectmen has already approved American Rescue Funds to various town groups providing the Board of Finance approves them.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION (2): Ms. Ashburn moved to adjourn the April 13, 2022 Meeting of the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary