

TOWN OF EAST LYME
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8, 2022

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller
Laura Ashburn
Mark Christensen
Marjorie Meekhoff, Alternate

FILED

June 14, 2022 AT 8:05 AM/PM

Bronx Astor ATC

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Harvey Beeman, Alternate
Don Danila

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the June 8, 2022 meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

MOTION (1): Ms. Ashburn moved to seat Marjorie Meekhoff for Don Danila. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. There were no guests.

II. MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2022. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the May 11, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources.

MOTION (2): Mr. Christensen moved to accept the May 11, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources, as presented. Ms. Ashburn and Ms. Meekhoff abstained from voting. (3-0-2) Motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS Ms. Meekhoff reported a few months ago she discussed writing a pollinator pathway resolution. She gave it to Ms. Anderson. It was called a proclamation. First Selectman Seery has been given the document cover and Pollinator Pathway East Lyme brochure. It will go to the Board of Selectmen, if necessary.

Ms. Meekhoff met with Mr. Goeschel, Dan Mullen of Eastern Connecticut Water District, and Paul Burgess, Manager of Eastern Connecticut Water District to request that the town plant more native trees. The appropriate trees to be planted was discussed. Ms. Meekhoff added two trees with root filters will be planted in Latimer and two will be planted in Cavasin. Mr. Carlson stated that the CCNR supports the additional establishment of tree filters at critical locations in town.

Ms. Meekhoff agreed to distribute copies of her resolution. Mr. Christensen stated the town had started a tree nursery in Bridebrook Park but it has been very poorly supported and many of the trees have died. Mr. Christensen added the Agribusiness Subcommittee suggested putting any new trees in large tubs rather than in the ground.

MOTION (3): Ms. Heller moved to add to the July Agenda Pollinator Pathways as old business after Agribusiness Subcommittee. Seconded

by Mr. Christensen. (5-0) Unanimous.

Ms. Meekhoff felt it would be worthwhile to develop a tree inventory in town. She would like to have an intern from Connecticut College. She will work on a grant in order to pay the intern.

Ms. Meekhoff, Mr. Goeschel and Mr. Dinsmore met to discuss refurbishing the tree nursery. Mr. Goeschel felt the Town of Milford has a great town nursery. It was felt a visit to the tree nursery in Milford would be worthwhile. Mr. Carlson felt the town should have a permanent nursery. Mr. Christensen felt Peretz Park would be a good location for it. He added it is sunny and water is available. Mr. Carlson suggested putting together a plan to submit to the First Selectmen to determine if the town is willing to support it. Ms. Meekhoff felt a deer fence is needed. Mr. Christensen suggested putting in trees that deer don't like. He spoke to Mr. Bruce Dasinger about spraying poison ivy. The town has brush hogged it. His understanding was Mr. Dasinger had someone who would seed it. He needs to contact Mr. Foster. It is time sensitive.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. SustainabilityCT Program: Start of 2022 Recertification Process. Ms. Heller reported she and Ms. Ashburn met to discuss the SustainabilityCT Program. Twenty actions have been written up. Ms. Heller asked Mr. Danila to attend DEEP's webinar next Tuesday on how much the town is disposing of waste and how to reduce it. A CT DEEP staff member is leading the study. Ms. Heller stated Stamford has bought a digester steamer to reduce the volume of waste. If the material is all organic, this process produces usable fertilizer while greatly reducing the volume of waste to be incinerated. Ms. Heller added the idea is to separate the organic material.

Also on the list for recertification: Mr. Beeman is working on inventory of cultural assets including historical homes in East Lyme. Ms. Ashburn is working on energy saving upgrades completed at the town's schools. Mr. Danila is working on solid waste management. Ms. Heller felt there will be problems completing tasks in the areas of transportation and housing. Ms. Heller and Ms. Ashburn plan to meet with the First Selectman to review the list with him.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. Communications. Mr. Carlson has had discussions with First Selectman Seery.
- b. Agribusiness Subcommittee. Mr. Christensen reported an antique tractor and truck show will be held on June 11 at the Samuel Smith Farmstead from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The next Agribusiness Subcommittee meeting will be held at the High School the third Wednesday of the month as usual. The subcommittee did not participate in the Memorial Day Parade and will not participate in Celebrate East Lyme this year.

Cathy Christensen has recently established "Safe and Sound Equine Therapy" for youngsters as a way to get in touch with nature and themselves. This is being held at the Christensens' Farmstead.

He reported two new agribusinesses have started in town: one on Grassy Hill with greenhouses and vegetables. The other is a husband and wife that will raise goats and chickens and eventually horses.

Mr. Christensen reported the Starlight Motel will be demolished in coming weeks.

- c. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson reported Trails Day went well.

Four Eagle Scouts are working on an outhouse, shelter and picnic table off the Goodwin Trail. Mr. Carlson stated we have a problem with ATVs damaging the trail. He showed the Commission flyers which will be distributed in an attempt to lessen the problem. He has showed them to the Chief of Police, the First Selectmen and those attending the hike on Trails Day. It could be followed up with an ordinance. It may be necessary to install cameras.

- d. Ex-Officio Report. Ms. Hardy was unable to be present and there was no report.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION (4): Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the June 8, 2022 Meeting of the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary