

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

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

FILED

July 18, 2022 AT 3:54 AM/PM
Wanda Flower ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Laura Ashburn

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the July 13, 2022 meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MOTION (1): Mr. Danila moved to seat Marjorie Meekhoff for Laura Ashburn.
Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (4-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (2): Mr. Carlson moved to add to this evening's Agenda under New Business
Ordinance for motorcycles and ATVs on public and private property.
Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.
- II. **MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2022.** Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the June 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources.

MOTION (3): Mr. Christensen moved to accept the June 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Heller. Mr. Danila abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

- III. **NEW BUSINESS.**
 - a. **Ordinance for motorcycles and ATVs on Public and Private Property.** Mr. Carlson distributed New London Day article, dated July 2, 2022 regarding the police asking for help to curb illegal dirt bikes and ATVs. He has given the article to the First Selectman.

It is a state law that permission is needed to go on private property. Mr. Carlson stated ATVs and motorcycles are on the Goodwin Trail. They are causing erosion. He suggested writing a letter of support for an ordinance.

Mr. Danila felt this is a problem all over the state to keep them off certain public spaces. Ms. Heller asked Mr. Carlson to draft a letter to the First Selectman. Mr. Danila suggested documenting the damage to the trails. Mr. Carlson has distributed flyers to walkers on the trail.

- IV. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. SustainabilityCT Program: Ms. Heller reported she had a good meeting this morning with First Selectman Kevin Seery, Gary Goeschel and Allie Christensen. Ms. Heller informed the Commission good progress is being made on recertification. She stated the deadline is August 23 and they are two-thirds of the way for recertification. She talked to the Town Engineer and was informed East Lyme will have four charging stations for electric cars using federal funds. The state is under mandate to take this and similar actions to mitigate climate change. Ms. Heller reported on July 15 a grant of over \$15,000 was received for the East Lyme Giving Garden. It will be used for educational materials to enable schools to have children come to learn about gardening. Adult workshops are also planned for the fall.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. Communications. Mr. Carlson reported there were no new communications to the committee.

Mr. Danila reported he put together a display at the East Lyme Library found in the glass case in entranceway on behalf of the Pattagansett Lake Association. It will be up for the entire month of July.

- b. Agribusiness Subcommittee. Mr. Christensen reported the antique tractor and truck display at Samuel Smith Farmstead had 107 in attendance on Open House Day. There were approximately 13 antique tractors. They will be involved in another antique tractor event on September 3 at the Church Lane property.

Mr. Christensen was pleased to report the Agribusiness Subcommittee has three new members.

The Agribusiness Subcommittee will have a display on making the most of a vegetable garden on Farm Day at the Samuel Smith Farmstead July 16th. They will have animals and pony rides. A woman who raises goats will sell goat soap. Ms. Heller agreed to take photos.

- c. Pollinator Pathways. Ms. Meekhoff reported she met with Mr. Goeschel and discussed a tree nursery. He suggested she talk to Steve Johnson, Assistant Public Works Director and Tree Warden in Milford. He has an annual budget of \$20,000 to be used for a tree nursery. Four years ago, it fell into disarray because of lack of volunteers and town workers. He is willing to visit East Lyme and help us in any way he can. Ms. Heller felt there are students who want to learn about trees. Harkness has an individual trained in trees that could be a resource person. Ms. Meekhoff suggested taking a tree inventory for all municipal properties. She will go to the Connecticut College Arboretum to see if any faculty are willing to help with an inventory. She may also try to write a grant to pay for necessary help.

Mr. Carlson added Dick Raymond, a retired CT DEEP Forester, has prepared an inventory of trees in the past and may be willing to help.

The Pollinator Pathways group plan to be at the Samuel Smith Farm Day. They have received \$2,000 to work on the Senior Center Garden.

She toured the York Prison facilities. They have old equipment and not enough manpower and would like the Pollinator Pathways group to help. DEEP has equipment to seed the prison lawn. She would like the Prison Warden to look at the Church Lane property.

She reported the Pollinator Pathways group is maintaining the meadow at Darrow Pond.

- d. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson had no additional comments.
- e. Ex-Officio Report. Ms. Hardy was unable to be present and there was no report.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION (4): Ms. Danila moved to adjourn the July 13, 2022 Meeting of the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Carlson. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary