


TOWN OF EAST LYME
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING
August 10, 2022

Present: Penny Heller
Mark Christensen
Don Danila
Harvey Beeman, Alternate

Absent: Laura Ashburn
Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Marjorie Meekhoff, Alternate

FILED

Aug 15 2022 AT 3:20 AM/PM

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER. Acting Chairlady Heller called the August 10, 2022 meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

MOTION (1): Mr. Danila moved to seat Harvey Beeman for Laura Ashburn. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (3-0) Unanimous.

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.
- II. **MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2022.** Ms. Heller asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the July 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources.

MOTION (2): Mr. Danila moved to accept the July 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. Mr. Beeman abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

III. **NEW BUSINESS.** There was no discussion on new business.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. SustainabilityCT Program:
 1. New EL Cultural Assets Map. Mr. Beeman reported an action item is for a Tourism Map and Cultural Assets map. (See attached). This Commission needs to have a link on the town website. There should be a maintenance plan.

MOTION (3): Mr. Beeman moved to include an action item for members of the Conservation of Natural Resources to review the Tourism Map and Cultural Assets Map each year at its September meeting. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (4-0) Unanimous.

2. Sustainability Food Network Update. Ms. Heller reported three years ago we did a review of the food network in town. We made recommendations in 2019 that pantry staff have made good progress with. Staff at the two pantries in East Lyme have solicited more help from churches to help people in need to come to the pantries. One recommendation not realized was to have people on the SNAP Program use credits at the Farmers Market or Fresh Food Market. Representatives in Hartford need to sign a list for the Town Hall. Someone at Town Hall needs to be

responsible. So far that network has not been successfully set up. Care and Share is independent non-profit. The town has given them a freezer for them to store meat and dairy products in addition to dry goods normally provided. St. John's Episcopal Church is part of the shoreline pantries network, a multi-town non-profit with many sources of produce.

- b. RBV Sampling. Mr. Danila reported that DEEP came out with a 2021 draft RBV report. Some groups sampling found up to 12 most desired insects, whereas our team only found 3 at the two Latimer Brook and Fourmile River sites and 2 at the Cranberry Meadow Brook site. Last year and this year have been dry and likely impacted the insects. The problem with sampling is you need a specific flow and substrate. Maybe we should look for another place to sample in Cranberry Meadow Brook as riffles are generally lacking where we have been sampling. Despite the 2021 results, Mr. Danila did not feel we have bad water quality. He recommends not sampling this year due to low water flows. Latimer Brook now is discharging about one-half cubic feet of water (1/16 of the normal flow for this time of the year). He stated he took a UConn graduate student to Bride Brook and they looked at this stream at the North Bride Brook Road overpass and there was no water. Mr. Danila felt we should forego RVB sampling unless we get considerable rain in the coming weeks.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. Communications. There was no new correspondence.
- b. Agribusiness Subcommittee. Mr. Christensen reported Farm Day on July 16 at Samuel Smith Farmstead had 139 visitors.

The Agribusiness Subcommittee continues to look for new members.

A farmer on Upper Walnut informed him in July a bear attacked and killed one of his lambs.

Ms. Heller asked for information on new regulations on bees and chickens. Mr. Christensen reported if you have one acre you can have six hens. No roosters are allowed.

He added bees are allowed in every zone. Smaller properties can have two hives. They have to be in the backyard.

- c. Pollinator Pathways. Ms. Meekhoff informed Ms. Heller she and Mr. Carlson plan to meet with retired Forester Dick Raymond to review the town's tree inventory.

Mr. Christensen showed Ms. Meekhoff the town's tree nursery at Bride Brook.

- d. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson was not present and there was no report.
- 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 August 10, 2022 Meeting of the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:20 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

Action 4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets

- a. Identify potential tourism and cultural assets, including institutions, locations, programs, and organizations in your community. You may work regionally to complete any or all of the tourism and cultural asset map. *Note:* Please ensure that more than one type of cultural asset is accounted for in your map. Potential tourism and cultural assets could include (but are not limited to) historically significant buildings; works of art; gardens, parks, or other tracts of the natural environment; historic landmarks; viewsheds; public spaces; and significant venues.

Status: Complete. **Tourism and cultural assets were collected and evaluated from existing town resources and websites. These included; Google searches, discussions at Town commission meetings such as Conservation of Natural Resources Commission and Historic Properties Commission as well as available resources from Niantic Main Street (www.nianticmainstreet.org), Discover East Lyme (www.discovereastlyme.com) and the East Lyme Town website (www.eltownhall.com). searches.**

- b. Identify the following information for each potential tourism and cultural asset:

- Contact information and/or designee;
- A general description of the asset;
- Location of the asset and website;
- For venues only: a detailed description of the venue, seating capacity, and availability; and
- Type of asset: identify category.
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Status: Complete. **Worksheet 4.1.1b has been completed using the template provided (see attachment 4.1.1b)**

- c. Create a useable and public online resource that enables the community to search, learn and use the information generated on the assets (for example, an interactive and searchable map). You may use mapping, Excel, or any other database to compile tourism and cultural assets. We recommend that you sort the assets by category (tourism attraction, lodging, historic sites, museums, galleries, restaurants, shopping, events, etc.). You may select to include the categories that are relevant and important to your town.

Status: Complete. **A Tourism Map has been constructed using Google My Maps from the completed worksheet contained in action item b above. The map contains 9 layers reflecting the categories outlined below.**

Category Description	No. of items	No. w/ Tel. No.	No. w/ Address	No. w/ Website
Performing Arts	4	1	4	4
Tourism Events	8	0	7	8

Attractions & Entertainment	11	8	11	10
Food & Dining	27	26	27	24
Specialty Retail	16	16	16	15
Parks & Beaches	8	0	8	1 (use link to eltownhall for 7)
Recreation & Recreational Programming	9	9	9	9
Walking/Hiking Trails	6	0	6	0 (use link to eltownhall for 6)
Historic East Lyme & Niantic	4	1	3	3

d. Promote the resource through municipal communication channels.

Status: Complete. **The My Map (item c above) has been added to the Town website. It has been added to the “Visitors and Recreation” tab which also provides several of the links which are included on the map. Reference the following link for direct access to the map (<https://eltownhall.com/visitors-recreation/sites-of-interest/tourism-and-cultural-asset-map/>).**

e. Create a maintenance plan for updating the dynamic tourism and cultural asset web resource defining how often the resource will be updated (for instance, seasonally).

Status: Complete. **The maintenance plan will follow existing Town website update protocols. Since many of the map links are tied to the Town website, schedule items such as Performing Arts, Historic East Lyme & Niantic, and Tourism Events will be automatically updated. In addition, an action item has been added to the Conservation of Natural Resources Commission agenda to review the map content annually until the next Sustainable CT renewal date at which time the map will be removed if not updated.**