

TOWN OF EAST LYME
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING
September 14, 2022

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller
Mark Christensen

Absent: Laura Ashburn
Don Danila
Harvey Beeman, Alternate
Marjorie Meekhoff, Alternate

FILED
Sept 22 2022 AT 8:15 AM PM
(Signature)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the September 14, 2022 meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.
- II. **MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2022.** Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the August 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources.

MOTION (1): Mr. Christensen moved to accept the August 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Heller. Mr. Carlson abstained from voting. (2-0-1) Motion carried.

- III. **NEW BUSINESS.** There was no discussion on new business.
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS.**
 - a. SustainabilityCT Program End of 2022 Recertification Process. Ms. Heller reported It was submitted on August 23, 2022. Mr. Beeman found that since some upgrades to street lights were paid for recently the Town got enough “energy saving” credit. She added we submitted 295 points and only 200 are needed. First Selectman Seery spoke to the Board of Selectmen and mentioned the success of the sustainability certification program. We had 12 different action items completed from natural resource accomplishments to posting data for homelessness, affordable housing, and municipal waste reductions. We also may get credit for installing charging stations for electric vehicles. In the future East Lyme should explore credit for working with other towns. Two of the bigger projects included in the certification were:
 1. New EL Cultural Assets Map. Mr. Beeman presented this information last month. They have been attached to the August minutes. The map is posted on the Town website.
 2. Sustainability Food Network Update. Ms. Heller gave a summary to the First Selectmen. An update on the census data was included which showed the effects of COVID: Unemployment increased; the number of people graduating from high school and higher degrees decreased.

- b. RBV Sampling. Mr. Danila and Ms. Heller decided not to do sampling this year because of the drought. The drought was discussed with CT DEEP staff and it was felt two sites may be done instead of four to see what affect the drought had. Ms. Heller reported we will wait until mid-October to take the sampling.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. Communications. There was no new correspondence.
- b. Agribusiness Subcommittee. Mr. Christensen reported we are focusing on educational seminars. Tom Kalal set up one on tick control and one on bears. A representative from DEEP came to East Lyme to discuss coyotes. Mr. Christensen will also be setting up a discussion of the benefit of growing oysters commercially in town waters. There also will be a demonstration of growing and preparing pears at the Samuel Smith House. The Subcommittee will hold a "Harvest Day" Celebration on Saturday October 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Samuel Smith Farmstead. The Subcommittee also helped out at the tractor show. We had a very successful Farm Day. We continue to look for new members. Equine Therapy was held by Sarah Firmin for the benefit of youth. Mr. Christensen reported that about 100 visitors came to the Open House at the East Lyme Giving Garden held September 3rd. The Lions attended and agreed next year to help with cooking.
- c. Pollinator Pathways. Ms. Meekhoff was unable to be present and there was no report.
- d. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson felt the biggest problem we have is to protect our drinking water supply. First Selectmen Seery asked Mr. Carlson to allow him to put the watershed maps in his office and in the town hall hallway so that he and others will be more familiar with where the watershed boundaries are. Mr. Carlson reviewed with the Commission his Open Space Plan and discussed problems with acquiring open space.
- e. Ex-Officio Report. Ms. Hardy was unable to be present and there was no report.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION (2): Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the September 14, 2022 Meeting of the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (3-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary