

TOWN OF EAST LYME  
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 9, 2022

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT

2022 NOV 17 A 8:18

  
TOWN CLERK

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

Absent: Marjorie Meekhoff, Alternate

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-Officio

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Carlson called the November 9, 2022 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.
- II. **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022.** Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the September 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Heller moved to accept the November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation of Natural Resources, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. Ms. Ashburn and Mr. Danila, abstained from voting. (3-0-2) Motion carried.**

- III. **NEW BUSINESS.** 2023 Meeting Dates. The following meeting dates were reviewed by Commission members: January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13.

**MOTION (2): Mr. Danila moved to approve the above 2023 meeting dates for the Conservation of Natural Resources Commission, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0) Unanimous.**

**MOTION (3): Ms. Heller moved to add under Old Business, item c. Road Salt Data. Seconded By Ms. Ashburn. (5-0) Unanimous.**

- IV. **OLD BUSINESS.**
  - a. SustainabilityCT Program: End of 2022 Recertification Process. Ms. Heller reported the Town received the bronze certification. She added many of the points we received were from the Agribusiness Subcommittee who are interested in composting manure. She noted that the program has set aside money for community composting.
  - b. RBV Sampling. Mr. Danila reported we did not sample this year because of the drought. CT DEEP noted that organizations are sampling next spring, which we will consider doing.

Mr. Danila was asked by Ms. Ashburn to work with two of her classes at East Lyme High School to show them what RBV sampling looked like. They were taken to Latimer Brook in October to see how sampling works and to sort the samples. Ms. Ashburn added that the classes were able to take the insects back to school as well as a habitat assessment. Her students had a great time.

- c. **Road Salt Data.** Ms. Heller distributed a draft memo to commission members. She received comments from Mr. Christensen and Ms. Meekhoff. All commission members agreed it should be sent to Ben North which Ms. Heller will do in the Commission's name. Ms. Ashburn suggested that Chris Lund receive a copy of the Memo. It was felt that liability issues need to be considered when determining how much to salt walkways and roads. Ms. Heller felt the Aquifer Protection Areas should be highlighted and discussed by Town officials. Mr. Beeman felt we need to know the length of time it takes for salts to mitigate into ground water. Ms. Heller felt that is difficult to determine because there are too many mitigating factors. Mr. Carlson asked what instruments would we need to determine how much and where the salt is coming from? Ms. Ashburn added we also need to know how much chloride is in our drinking water. Mr. Carlson asked Mr. Danila to investigate methods of measuring chloride in surface waters and report back to the Commission.

#### V. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.**

- a. **Communications.** Mr. Danila reported The Day and the Lyme Times had articles on the 161 Corridor Study meeting of October 27. Individuals were able to go to four stations looking for ways it could be improved. They wish to improve the situation particularly where the new Exit 74 is planned. There could be improvements made to sidewalks and bike lanes. Mr. Danila added they did not bring up environmental issues that might arise. He suggested improving handling storm water. People can go to the project website and give comments until November 30. There will be workshops and a final plan presented in the future.
- b. **Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported there was discussion of a Potluck Supper in January for various community groups. Ms. Hardy felt the potluck suppers in the past have been very successful.

He informed the Commission of three seminars to be held in the East Lyme Room at the library at 2 p.m. On January 7 (with a snow date of January 14) on The History and Benefits of Shellfishing. On February 11 on Existing and Emerging Tick and Tick-borne Disease Challenges as a Serious Public Health Concern. On March 18 (with a snow date of March 25) on the Natural History of Black Bears in Connecticut.

Mr. Christensen reported that on October 15 the Agribusiness Subcommittee held a Harvest Celebration at the Samuel Smith Farmstead. There were 87 individuals in attendance. He felt better publicity was needed for future events.

The Agribusiness Subcommittee is looking for new members.

He thought a grant writer is needed.

He was informed by the First Selectmen that the men's prison would be a perfect site for community composting. The Town landfill does not have room for it. It was felt a dedicated staff member is needed because only certain items can be composted. Ms. Heller felt the final product also needs to be dealt with.

- c. Pollinator Pathways. Ms. Meekhoff asked Ms. Heller to convey the following information to the Commission for her:  
Sam Geary, Planning Department intern, asked Ms. Meekhoff to meet him at the Tree Nursery site. Mr. Goeschel would like to resurrect the project. They asked if Pollinator Pathways could help/direct the project and help fund it. Her response was no available money, no extra volunteer help, and she described the demise of Milford's Tree Nursery. She informed him if he doesn't go through with it, the Pollinator Pathways would like to install a meadow. Mr. Geary's response was that Pollinator Pathways would need to get a zoning change, because Mr. Goeschel wrote a grant specifically for that area to be a tree nursery and any deviation for land use would need to be altered.

She has been researching phytoremediation and felt it is very doable.

She attended the Public Forum on the 161 Corridor project and spoke to Joe Rimiller, Project Manager of BETA Engineering, concerning native plantings. Within a week his Senior Landscape Designer spoke with her. The designer claims 98% of the plantings are native and she will obtain authorization to email Ms. Meekhoff a list of plants.

Ms. Meekhoff met at York Prison on November 9 with Peter Picone, DEEP Wildlife Biologist, York Grounds Keeper and the Warden for another site assessment of the pollinator meadow planned for the prison grounds.

Pollinator Pathways needs to install a rain barrel at the Community Center. Water run-off from a down spout is causing flooding and erosion. Several members of the Commission offered to donate a barrel or knew where one could be obtained for free.

Ms. Meekhoff stated that behind the Community Center there is standing water in a swale after rain that lingers. The solution could be a rain garden. She will have a library meeting with Dan Mullins of Eastern Connecticut Conservation District next week. She hopes his office can write a grant. Failing that, Ms. Heller offered to help write a SustainableCT grant.

Pollinator Pathways will be using the glass showcase in March at the library to promote our Pollinator Proclamation. She thanked Mr. Christensen for that suggestion.

Pollinator Pathways is mentoring the Environmental Science class at Three Rivers Community College for a meadow installation on its campus.

- d. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson had nothing in addition to report.
- e. Ex-Officio Report. Ms. Hardy had nothing further to report.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT.**

**MOTION (4): Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the November 9, 2022 Meeting of the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (5-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**