

TOWN OF EAST LYME RECEIVED FOR RECORD
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES EAST LYME, CT
INFORMAL DISCUSSION
October 12, 2022 2022 OCT 31 P 3: 57

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

Carroll Heller
TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the October 12, 2022 Informal Discussion to order at 7:00 p.m. This was an informal discussion because the Agenda did not reach the Town Clerk in time.

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. There were no guests

- I. **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022.** The minutes of September 13, 2022 were tabled.
- II. **NEW BUSINESS.** Ms. Heller distributed copies of Town well-water salt data from 2005-2021 that she received from Ben North. She stated if you look at the system average, it appears that all is ok. However, the trends for individual wells tell a different story. Well 6 (south of the highway) is the worst well, with salt content increasing an average of 1.6 ppm every year. Its water has been above the health guideline of 28 ppm since 2013. The sample from 1A was combined with Well 6 in 2021, bringing the combined value for Well 6 to 32 ppm. Ms. Heller reported the only well not showing a statistically increasing trend is well 2A (Bridebrook Road). Wells 3A and 3B also went over the health cutoff of 28 ppm. Mr. Danila asked if Public Works keeps track of how much salt they use since there does not appear to be any guideline. Mr. Christensen added the prison may have separate requirements. Mr. Carlson asked about parking lots since they are particular areas that are troubling. Ms. Heller stated Well 4 (Dodge Pond) and Well 6 and Well 1A have been increasing every year, putting them substantially over the health advisory limit. Ms. Heller felt these wells need to have some kind of buffer. Ms. Heller added Well 5 (across from Ron's Guns) had the lowest levels but that it has doubled over the last decade. Mr. Carlson felt that since we are not putting in any more roads, he wondered why salt levels were increasing, some at such a high rate. Mr. Danila felt we will need to see if the amount of snow correlates to the salt levels. Ms. Ashburn asked are we measuring sodium? Mr. Danila stated yes sodium was measured, not conductance, and that is a health issue. Ms. Ashburn felt we need to know what the exact substance is that the town is using on the roads. Mr. Christensen stated Groton and Ledyard drivers are trained to know what low or high sodium rate to put on the roads for each storm circumstance. Ms. Meekhoff asked why isn't Public Works doing something about this? Mr. Beeman asked is well 1 is not in use? Mr. Danila stated data from wells 1A and 6 were combined. Ms. Ashburn felt we salt much more because there are more cars on the road. Ms. Heller asked is a brine mix more stable? Mr. Beeman stated it is better to use because it stays put. Ms. Ashburn stated there are plants that take up specific chemicals

and Ms. Meekhoff said she would look into that. Ms. Heller felt one area that needs to be targeted is around Exit 74 (wells 6 and 1A).

- III. Ms. Ashburn informed the Commission there will be a Route 161 Corridor Study Public Hearing on October 27, 2022 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the East Lyme High School Auditorium. Mr. Christensen reported a roadway is being put in and Rt. 161 is being redone and they will put in sidewalks the entire length of Rt. 161 from I-95 to East Pattagansett Road. This a good opportunity to build in infrastructure that will redirect melt water from paved (salted) areas away from the wells.

Ms. Meekhoff distributed flyers on the Route 161 Corridor Study.

Ms. Heller said she would share this salt data analysis with Ben North and forward the above questions to him.

Mr. Danila asked if other Commission members would participate in a winter salt watch program with him by taking water samples and reporting them to the Izaak Walton League, which supplies the materials. Excess chloride in streams and lakes are bad for aquatic life. If any commission members are interested in participating, he will forward the information to them.

Ms. Meekhoff reported Pollinated Pathway has developed a Proclamation, signed by the First Selectman, that directs the Town to encourage the planting of native pollinator plants and discourage the use of herbicides and pesticides. It was suggested that it be displayed at the library. Ms. Meekhoff asked Mr. Carlson if he has maps of the Town's watersheds that can be displayed at the Town Hall to educate the public as to where their drinking water comes from.

Ms. Meekhoff stated that her initiative to start a tree inventory and a tree nursery is not feasible at this time. The Town doesn't have enough staff to maintain such a program. She is proceeding with several pollinator gardens. Recently she oversaw the groundbreaking ceremony at the Public Safety Building for the Betty Murphy Memorial Garden.

Mr. Danila attended the Pattagansett Lake Association annual meeting last Monday night. The Association plans to engage a contractor for aquatic weed control in the lake. Ms. Meekhoff asked if there are regulations on fertilizer use in town? Mr. Danila stated there are none to his knowledge. Some Association members cannot hydrorake because there is nowhere to put the spoils. The contractor will use the herbicide called Clipper to get rid of lily pads. It will cost \$370 an acre. He was asked how does Powers Lake compare with Pattagansett Lake? He felt Powers Lake was probably better as it is surrounded by the Yale Forest with less housing development. Mr. Christensen stated there are septic fields. Mr. Danila stated he would like to see housing development reduced around lakes. Mr. Christensen would like to see wild flowers planted.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. SustainabilityCT Program End of 2022 Recertification Process. There was no discussion on the SustainabilityCT Program

b. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. Communications. There was no new correspondence.
- b. Agribusiness Subcommittee. Mr. Christensen reported there will be an End of Harvest Celebration at the Samuel Smith Farmstead on Saturday October 15, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature: house tours, farm animals, talks and demonstration of Farm Life "back then", Five Bean Row band and demonstrations on apple pressing and cider and donuts. Mr. Waterman will discuss the benefit of honeybees. Applesauce will be made. Mr. Londregan will discuss harvesting oyster in the old and present days.

The Subcommittee plans to invite the public to talks at the Library January through March on farming topics. In January Mr. Londregan will discuss how his oyster business works. Other talks will be presented by CTDEEP staff who will discuss bears in Connecticut and in March DEEP will discuss tick control. The agribusiness group will advertise these talks on Facebook and the town website The library has produced a flyer that the agribusiness group will post.

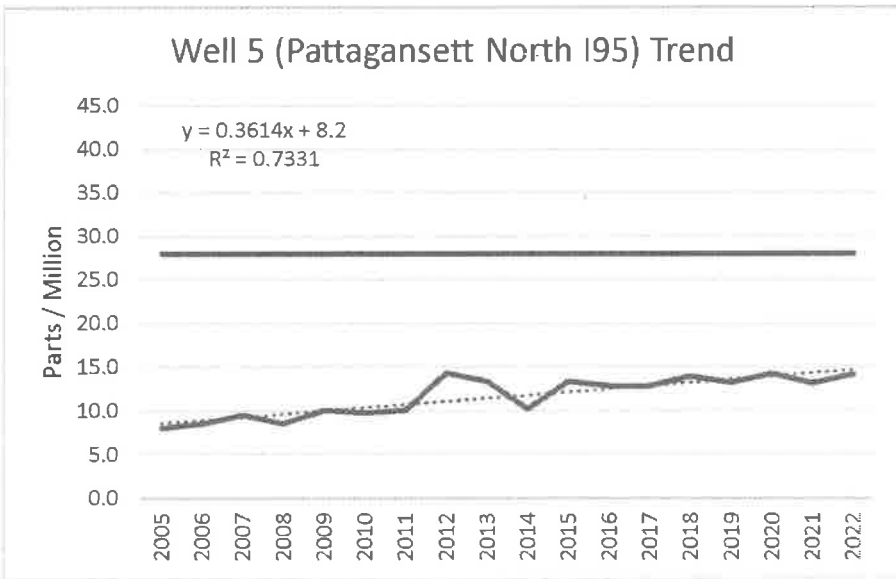
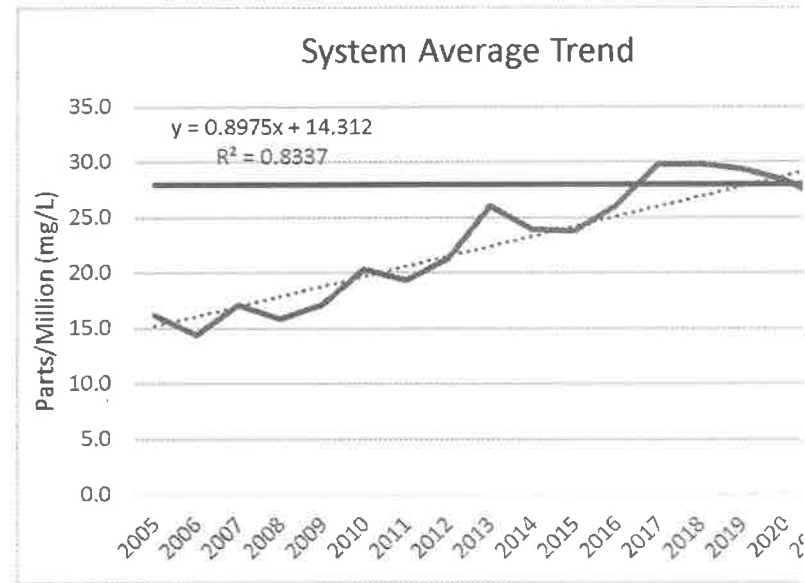
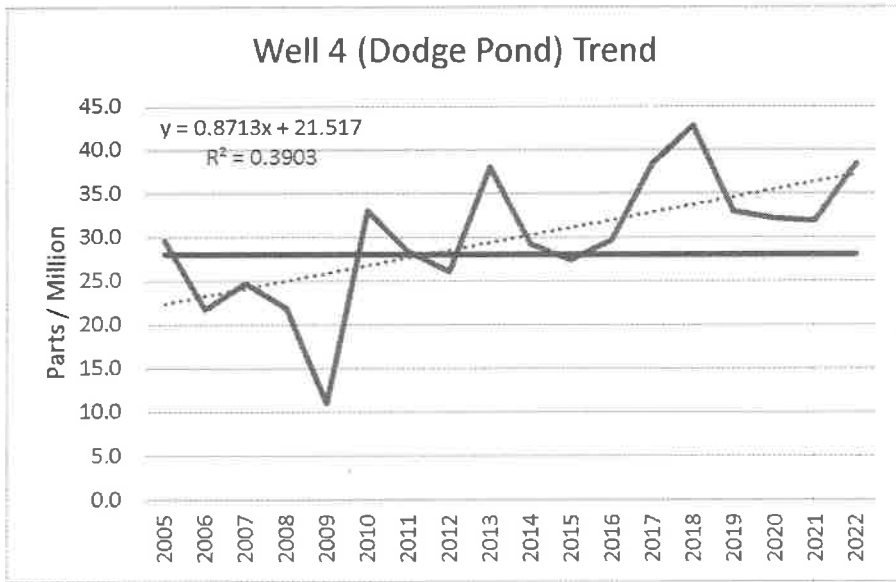
- c. Pollinator Pathways. Ms. Meekhoff informed the Commission she spoke to the Warden at York Prison and visited its two acres. The Warden would like to have a meadow to replace the large area that now must be constantly mowed. CTDEEP staff will meet with the Warden and her Grounds Manager sometime in March to discuss the project which Ms. Meekhoff will oversee.
- d. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson had nothing further to report.
- e. Ex-officio Report. Ms. Hardy had a previous appointment and was unable to attend.

ADJOURNMENT.

The informal discussion closed at 8 p.m.

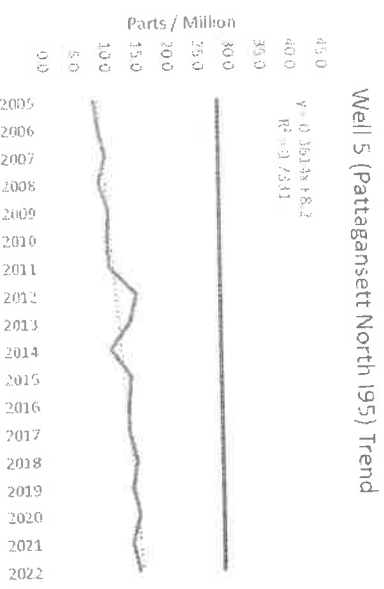
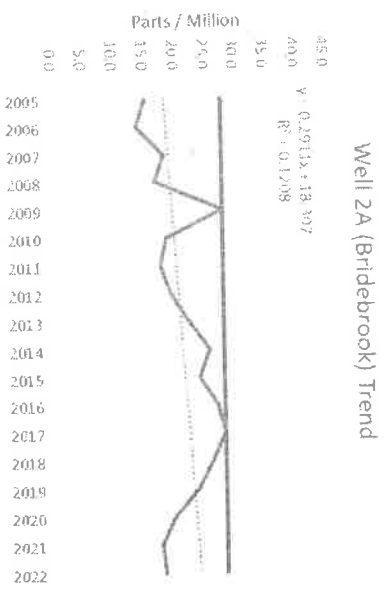
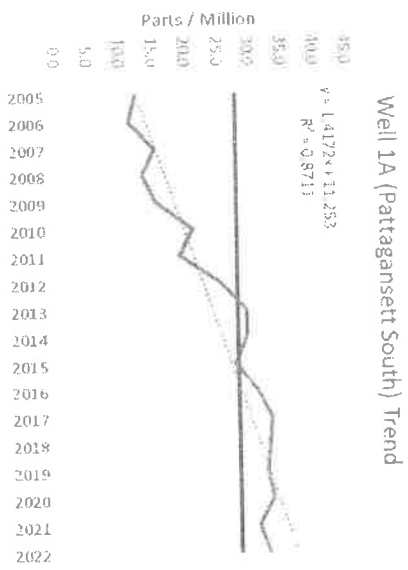
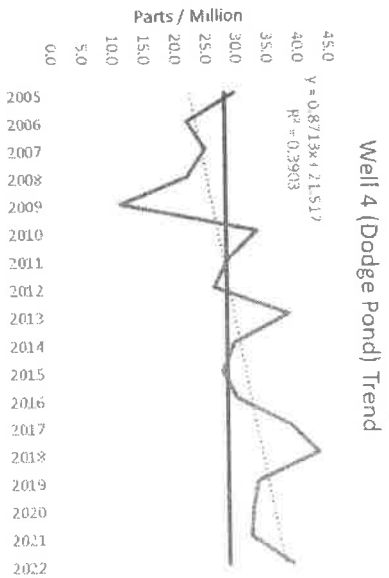
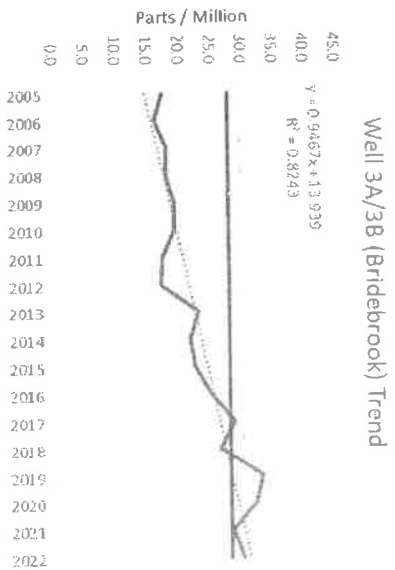
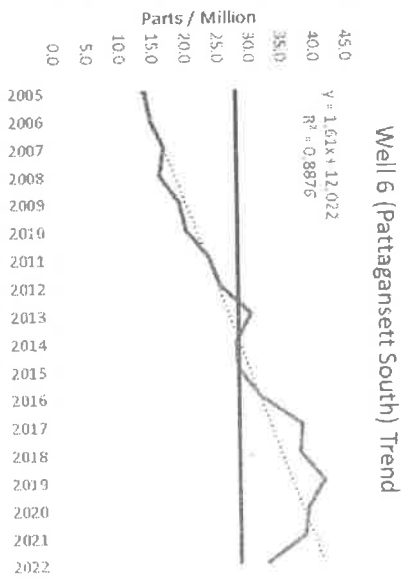
Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary

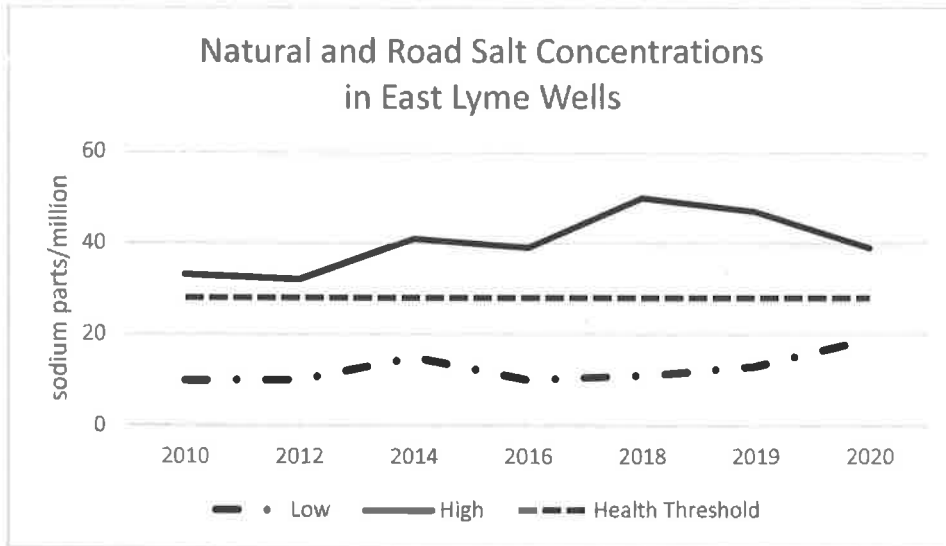


	AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE (Slope)	R-square
Well 6	1.61	0.89**
Well 1A	1.42	0.87**
Well 3A/3E	0.95	0.82**
Well 4	0.87	0.39*
Well 5	0.36	0.73*
Well 2A	0.29	0.12
system ave	0.898	0.83





year	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2019	2020
low	10	10	15	10	11	13	19
high	33	32	41	39	50	47	39
threshold	28	28	28	28	28	28	28



Note: Report publishes the 'Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level' of 250 only, which "protects the aesthetic qualities of the drinking water "