

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2022

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

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources to order at 7:00 p.m.

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Caitlin Miller
TOWN CLERK

I. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS. There were no guests.

MOTION (1): Mr. Danila moved to add to this evening's Agenda under Old Business, B. Methods of Measuring Chloride in Drinking Water. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

II. MINUTES -November 9, 2022. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections the November 9, 2022 Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

MOTION (2): Mr. Christensen moved to accept the November 9, 2022 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0) Unanimous.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Possible Work with Waterford on the Grimsey Park Project. Ms. Heller reached out to Maureen FitzGerald, Waterford Environmental Planner, and discussed the possibility of working together on Grimsey Park. Waterford would like to fix the beach and seawall. DEEP has a policy that they will not rebuild seawalls.

Ms. Heller reported "Tu Tu" brand netting balls may be a solution because they are designed to collect sediment. She wanted Ms. FitzGerald to know it would be labor intensive and the commission members would be willing to help Ms. Heller suggested that this Commission send a letter of support as well as offer assistance on the project. Ms. Hardy asked if there was a retaining wall in that area? Ms. Heller informed her it is very old and crumbling. Ms. Heller agreed to draft a letter of support for review by this Commission.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sustainability CT Program: Presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Heller plans to make a presentation to the Board of Selectman on the Sustainability CT Program.

- B. Methods of Measuring Chloride.** Mr. Danila reported sodium cannot be measured with a test kit. Any meter capable of measuring sodium would cost several thousands of dollars.

Chloride has many ways of being measured. One can titrate using silver nitrate, but that requires instrumentation and results in toxic waste. Water samples can be shipped to a laboratory at a cost of about \$30 per test. Chloride test strips can be used but are crude and not very precise. He has an instrument that can measure chloride. He found many colorimetric/photometric instruments available for purchase, ranging from about \$35 to \$4,300. He suggests determining what the problem is and creating a plan for sampling. Mr. Carlson suggested working with the Water & Sewer Commission. Mr. Danila stated he believes they perform water testing once a year per well. Mr. Carlson felt we need to determine where the salt is coming from. Mr. Danila added it might be better to take water samples where we feel there is a problem. Ms. Hardy reported this is very timely because this problem could become worse with more development. Mr. Danila stated salt does not evaporate, so ends up in streams or groundwater. Mr. Carlson added First Selectman Seery would like this problem taken care of. Mr. Danila stated the health issue is sodium. Chloride is cheaper to measure but needs to be done very carefully. Ms. Hardy suggested a subcommittee of this Commission to work with Water & Sewer and Inland Wetland.

Ms. Heller reported Joe Bragaw had already suggested that this Commission work with the Water & Sewer Commission. He felt the parking lots at Lillie B. Haynes and the Middle School is affecting Wells 1 and 6A. Ms. Ashburn suggested having discussion with Chris Lund. Mr. Carlson asked Ms. Heller and Mr. Danila to prepare a report for the Commission for the next meeting and outline its cost. Ms. Ashburn suggested using the Water Report. On December 6 Mr. Bragaw set up a meeting with a representative of UCONN to educate employees on this matter. Ms. Hardy asked that information on salt issues be emailed to her and she will ask that it be put on the January 18 Agenda of the Board of Selectmen. She suggested that Ms. Heller, Mr. Danila and Mr. Beeman attend that meeting to discuss this issue.

Ms. Ashburn would like to offer assistance to bring back "Storm Water Day", which was an annual event for all third graders until Covid restrictions halted it. Mr. Danila added the Niantic River Watershed Committee may be willing to participate along with Ms. Ashburn's high school students. Diane Swan, and Matt Gates from DEEP Fisheries can be invited to resume their former roles.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Communications.** Mr. Carlson had no new correspondence.
- B. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported the Potluck for Preservationists Dinner is scheduled for January 14 (with a snow date of January 15) in the lower level of Niantic Community Church. The newest group is the Giving Garden. Mr. Danila would like to give a talk on behalf of the Watershed Committee, the Pattagansett Lake Association and Frog Watch.

Mr. Christensen reported on the following Agri-Business winter seminars to be held in the East Lyme Room at the Library. Program registration is required.:

1. Saturday, January 7 at 2 p.m. (January 14 Snow Date) on the History and Benefits of Shell Fishing.
2. Saturday, February 11 at 2 p.m. (February 18 Snow Date) on Existing and Emerging Tick and Tick-Borne Disease Challenges as a Serious Public Health Concern.
3. Saturday, March 18 at 2 p.m. (March 25 Snow Date) on the History of Black Bears in Connecticut.

The Giving Garden group also plans to give several talks open to the public on growing your own food and nutritional benefits of eating fresh vegetables.

c. Pollinator Pathways. Mr. Christensen reported he will add to seeding at Darrow's Ridge because the drought caused damage to the original seeding.

C. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson had nothing new to report.

D. Ex-Officio Report. Ms. Hardy suggested that the Charter Revision Commission be asked to combine the Inland Wetlands Commission with this Commission. She asked for input from this Commission. Ms. Heller suggested that this Commission continue to be advisory but more actively involved in the issues brought before the Inland Wetlands Commission as a subcommittee. Mr. Danila suggested checking the Inland Wetlands Commission Agenda and if input is needed from this Commission, we attend the meeting. Ms. Hardy suggested an ex-officio member of this Commission attend the Inland Wetlands meetings and report back to this commission. Ms. Heller stated she would like to be involved when we can be helpful.

MOTION (3): Mr. Danila moved to adjourn the December 14, 2022 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Heller (5-0). Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gherji, Recording Secretary