

Darrow Pond Subcommittee  
MINUTES  
Special Meeting  
February 22, 2023  
6:00 PM

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT

2023 FEB 23 P 1:50

*Caushik Williams*  
TOWN CLERK

Meeting location: **Olive Chendali Room**

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Todd Donovan and the Pledge was recited.
2. Attendance – Todd Donovan, Charles Mebus, Bruce Dassinger, Richard Williams, Jerry Lokken (staff), Phil Barlow (consultant)
3. Approval of minutes of January 18, 2023
  - a. Bruce Dassinger made motion to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2023 meeting of the Darrow Pond Subcommittee. Seconded by Chuck Mebus. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Project updates
  - a. Todd Donovan updated the committee on the status of the subcommittee and the project.
  - b. Chuck Mebus made a motion to recommend that the Town of East Lyme expand the scope of services for the Darrow Pond Master Plan to include the 200 acres covered by a conservation easement in its planning to ensure that the master plan for the 100 acres under management by the Parks and Recreation Commission is compatible with the potential of the entire property. Bruce Dassinger Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Bruce and Richard discussed the environmental value of the property for birds, rabbits and other wildlife and the associated uses for bird watching and nature study.
5. Discussion of Preliminary Plan by FHI Studio
  - a. Phil Barlow shared an updated conceptual map overlaid onto property map that is accurate based on surveys, topography, etc. The members had no additional items to add to the map, except the possible inclusion of a tech area for mountain bikers that could potentially be located near the parking lot. No items were removed from the plan, but there was also discussion of potentially keeping all of the disc golf activity in an area to the south of the cottontail habitat, rather than having a small portion of the course near the parking lot.
  - b. Discussion continued regarding activities within the NEC conservation area, specifically the accessible trail. Bruce suggested that the CT- DEEP expert be invite to the site walk
  - c. Discussion regarding costs of the plan. Phil will provide a “high level” estimate when the plan is complete.
  - d. The challenge of off-leash dogs and motorized vehicles using the trails were discussed
  - e. Jerry stated that the plan should be finished by October for town budgeting purposes

6. Adjournment

- a. The next meeting was set for the week of March 26 and will be held on site. Staff from CT-DEEP will be invited to share additional details on the environmentally sensitive areas of the property.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

RVATION EASEMENT  
ND  
KING TRAIL  
ECREATION AREA  
G TRAIL  
IN TRAIL  
D CELL TOWER

