

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2023

Present: Art Carlson
Penny Heller
Don Danila

Mark Christensen
Harvey Beeman, Alternate
Marjorie Meekoff, Alternate

Absent: Laura Ashburn

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio

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EAST LYME, CT
2023 MAR --9 P 12:06
Cassidy M. Meehoff
TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Carlson called the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources of January 11, 2023 to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION (1): Mr. Danila moved to seat Harvey Beeman for Laura Ashburn. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (4-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (2): Mr. Danila moved to add Election of Officers for 2023 before Public Delegations. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2023.

Ms. Hardy asked for nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2023.

MOTION (3): Ms. Heller moved to nominate Art Carlson as Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2023. Seconded by Mr. Christenson.

There were no other nominations.

A vote was taken and Mr. Carlson was unanimously elected Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2023.

Ms. Hardy asked for nominations for Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2023.

MOTION (4): Mr. Carlson moved to nominate Penny Heller as Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources. Seconded by Mr. Danila.

There were no other nominations.

A vote was taken and Ms. Heller was unanimously elected Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.

II. **MINUTES -December 14, 2022.** Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections the December 14, 2022 Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

MOTION (5): Mr. Danila moved to accept the December 14, 2022 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Discussion of Possible Salt/Chloride Monitoring Project.** Mr. Danila and Ms. Heller distributed their Memo regarding a plan to sample salts in surface waters possibly entering East Lyme's drinking water aquifers.

Mr. Danila felt their plan will be useful in determining how much sodium is in our wells. Their approach would be to measure chloride as sodium concentrations are too difficult and expensive to ascertain. He had discussions with a company regarding purchasing of instruments. He received a quote of \$564 for a photometer and reagents to do 100 tests. He proposed sampling in the Pattagansett River aquifer with two stations, one at Upper Pattagansett Road and one at Industrial Park Road. With the Commission having no money budgeted for this sampling, Ms. Hardy asked Mr. Danila to write a brief proposal to be presented to the Board of Selectmen so that the instrument can be purchased and the sampling go forward.

Ms. Heller informed commission members that she had sent an email to Ben North and Joe Bragaw, East Lyme Public Works, indicating the commission's interest in a salt monitoring project and asking for information about how the town handles well water salt analyses. Their comments and suggestions were also requested.

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 at an upcoming Board meeting Ms. Hardy has asked to have the presentation as soon as there is room on their agenda.

B. **Collaborating with East Lyme Inland Wetlands Agency.** Mr. Carlson suggested writing a Memo to the East Lyme Inland Wetlands Agency indicating the desire of this commission to work with the Wetlands agency.

Ms. Hardy informed the Commission of a number of downtown buildings as well as development coming to East Lyme. She suggested a liaison of this Commission to the East Lyme Inland Wetlands Agency. Mr. Beeman suggested requesting information in their files. Ms. Hardy suggested that two Commission members go to meetings of the Charter Revision Commission to enable better information flow between the Commission and the IWA. Mr. Carlson suggested that Ms. Hardy talk to the Ex-officio member of Inland Wetlands Agency. Mr. Christensen and Mr. Carlson agreed to attend the Charter Revision Commission meeting on January 17, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Mr. Christensen informed the Commission that the former car wash on Flanders Road is being renovated. It is 30' from a body of water. There will be detergents used and possible salt runoff from cars. They plan to have two tanks.

V. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

A. **Communications.** Mr. Carlson had no new correspondence.

B. **Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported the Shellfish Seminar had 114 individuals in attendance and was very well received. Mr. Londregan did a good job on his research. He would be willing to have another seminar later in the year.

The preservationist Potluck Supper will be held on January 14 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Niantic Community Church.

Mr. Christensen plans to seed in Darrow Ridge to continue the rehabilitation of the wildlife habitat in the park.

C. **Pollinator Pathways.** Mr. Carlson recognized Marjorie Meekoff to speak.

Ms. Meekoff reported Ms. Heller asked her to research plantings. Mr. Goeschel suggested restoring the native tree nursery he started years ago. Ms. Meekoff replies that the commission had neither the money nor the expertise to take on that project and that a meadow planting would be self-sustaining. Ms. Hardy suggested asking the Lions and/or Rotary for funding.

She would like to volunteer for the proposed water sampling project. . She informed the Commission that there are plants that absorb chloride that could be considered as a means of mediation.

Pollinator Pathways will be working with inmates on 1 ½ acres near a pond at the prison to create two pollinator meadows. These projects will convert an area requiring constant mowing to a self-sustaining ecosystem. The grounds employees at the prison will attend a meeting with DEEP next week. . Since the first step is clearing the area with herbicide, there is a question of funding. Mr. Christensen felt the 1 ½ acres can be done easily with a backpack which would be less expensive. Ms. Meekoff informed the Commission a second site has wetlands so herbicides cannot be used there.

C. **D. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson showed the Commission a typical appraisal for open space. The cost ranges from \$8,000-\$12,000 for one appraisal and two are needed. There were two appraisals completed for the Hathaway property.

D. **E. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy agreed to contact the Charter Revision Commission to request that two individuals attend their next meeting e to discuss ways to share knowledge between this commission and other town agencies and staff.

She informed the Commission that the Yale Charette has been meeting with the First Selectman. There is concern about downtown development. Nothing has been done on the Dominion building. A dinner theater was suggested for the movie theater.

There is concern about older residents not being able to obtain the heating oil they may need.

Cathy Wilson, the Director of Senior Services, is retiring. This group is facing problems with limited transportation for seniors for medical appointments. The senior population in East Lyme ranges from 15% to 17%.

The Board of Selectmen voted to merge Parks and Recreation with Youth Services. She felt this is a good match.

The Blue Door is a 501(c)(3) organization and accepts donations of used medical equipment.

Ms. Meekoff reported that "Buy Nothing East Lyme" has 1,600 members. Every day people list what they do not need or something they desire. It is on Facebook. In order to join you need to be an East Lyme resident.

Ms. Hardy mentioned available federal funds will be used to replace the ladder at the Grand Street boat launch, which will cost \$7,000.

She stated there is a new Hazard Mitigation Five Year Plan to evaluate property flood damage and upgrade the storm water collection. Consideration is being given to remove a small dam on Rt. 1 to reduce flooding.

- E. MOTION (6): Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the January 11, 2023 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Danila. (5-0). Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary