

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2023

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EAST LYME, CT

2023 MAR 13 P 2:53

Carroll Hillier Heller
TOWN CLERK

Present: Art Carlson
Don Danila
Laura Ashburn
Mark Christensen
Marjorie Meekoff, Alternate

Absent: Penny Heller
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 of March 8, 2023 to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION (1): Mr. Danila moved to seat Marjorie Meekoff for Penny Heller. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (4-0) Unanimous.

- I. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.
- II. **MINUTES -February 8, 2023.** Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the February 8, 2023 Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

MOTION (2): Mr. Christensen moved to accept the February 8, 2023 East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. Mr. Carlson abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Discussion of members attendance at Charter Revision subcommittee February meeting** Mr. Christensen reported he attended a recent meeting of the Charter Revision Commission and presented them with a list of accomplishments of this Commission over the past year. He gave them Harvey Beeman's email address to enable him to receive information from them.

He explained to them that without a clean water supply we don't have a town. He also discussed the increasing levels of salt in our water supply, and that this Commission is working with the town to reduce salt on the roads.

He suggested either an Aquifer Protection Agency or that this Commission be allowed to comment on issues that may arise. It was noted that there is additional development coming into town. He recommended that we be included in the decision-making process. Ms. Hardy stated revisions will go to a Public Hearing and then be placed on the ballot.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion of participation in upcoming Earth Day and other spring/school events. (L. Ashburn). Ms. Ashburn spoke to Diane Swan and it may be a fall event rather than spring. Ms. Swan will have further discussions with Ms. Ashburn. She added Earth Day ties into the curriculum.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications. Mr. Carlson received a proposal on the Goodwin Trail and Darrow Pond from Robert Foster. The trail has been washing away since last April. Mr. Foster volunteered his self and machine services to repair the Goodwin Trail. The town would need to supply the materials. He would also be willing to work in the meadow. It needs to be mowed. It would cost \$160 to run his machine. It will take 3-4 hours. Mr. Foster also went to see First Selectman Kevin Seery and Mr. Lokken, Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Carlson also had discussion with First Selectman Kevin Seery. Mr. Christensen felt this situation is a liability and needs to be taken care of.

b. Agribusiness Subcommittee. Mr. Christensen reported on March 18 at 2 p.m. at East Lyme Library the third winter workshop will be on The History of Black Bears. (March 25 snow date).

Mr. Christensen reported the Agribusiness Subcommittee has two new members Tom and Terry Yuhas.

The second Annual Antique Tractor Show will be held on April 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Agribusiness Subcommittee hopes to work on the cost to community survey of residential subdivisions. We will pursue a grant for it. Mr. Carlson reported there are nine towns in Connecticut that have done this. He had discussion with the Finance Director regarding the cost of developments in town vs. open space.

c. Pollinator Pathways. Ms. Meekoff reported Pollinator Pathways has partnered with Linda Lilly of Sprigs & Twigs She has also contacted June Hoyt regarding memorial trees. Ms. Hoyt has been purchasing native trees and is willing to work with Pollinator Pathways. Ms. Meekoff will work on the design of plantings. She has had a soil test. Ms. Meekoff has visited Tumbleweeds to discuss our work. Yesterday she received a telephone call from Jason Bulik who agreed to help on the project. She added we have decided not to participate in Celebrate East Lyme.

The Events Calendar in the Library has published our Proclamation.

She has contacted Jerry Lokken, Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding the trees in Bridebrook Park. He asked for volunteers to clear cut everything. Someone recommended a fence. Pollinator Pathways could write a grant. The area is 300 feet long. It should have 20' sections. She stated we are willing to help Mr. Lokken.

Mr. Christensen reported the Darrow Pond Subcommittee will have a walk on March 28. Ms. Hardy stated they are seeking public input.

d. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson reported he had a conversation with Planning Director Mr. Goeschel. He recommended the town purchase a 3-D printer.

e. Ex-Officio Report. Ms. Hardy mentioned that East Lyme does not have sufficient sewer capacity for apartments for the elderly that is being proposed in Niantic near Dodge Pond. This development would

also include a Health Center. The developer has stated he will pay to run the sewer lines. There was a large turn-out at a recent Water & Sewer Commission Meeting. Mr. Danila expressed concern about Dodge Pond due to the large run of anadromous alewife.

f. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (3): Mr. Danila moved to adjourn the March 8, 2023 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christiansen. (5-0). Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary