

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 12, 2023

Present: Art Carlson  
Penny Heller  
Laura Ashburn  
Harvey Beeman, Alternate  
Marjorie Meekoff, Alternate

Absent: Don Danila  
Mark Christensen  
Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT  
2023 APR 18 A 9:50  
Laura Ashburn  
TOWN CLERK

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Carlson called the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources of April 12, 2023 to order at 7:04 p.m.

**MOTION (1):** Ms. Heller moved to seat Harvey Beeman for Don Danila and Marjorie Meekhoff for Mark Christensen. Seconded by Mr. Carlson. (2-0) Unanimous. Ms. Ashburn joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

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

II. **MINUTES -March 8, 2023.** Mr. Carlson asked for a delay in reviewing the March 8, 2023 Minutes of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources until the May Commission meeting because two members were absent and Ms. Heller had not attended the March meeting.

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion of Trail Maintenance Issues:** Mr. Carlson met with Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Lokken and Mike McDowell in March, 2023. Mr. Carlson said Mr. Lokken offered the assistance of Parks maintenance staff and machinery to repair damage on the Goodwin Trail due to erosion and heavy use. Ms. Ashburn emphasized that this was an excellent time to engage the new director in developing a comprehensive Trail Maintenance training program for the Parks staff so needed repairs can be done effectively with minimum staff time and expense. Mr. Carlson agreed with this suggestion and said he will look for published trail maintenance guides that can be used to initiate a training program, and report back to the Commission in May.

Ms. Ashburn also suggested that the Commission invite a knowledgeable speaker to talk about trail maintenance and extend the invitation to Parks staff and the First Selectman. She also noted that this should be the first of many invited experts to inform Commission members as well as other interested town officials.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion of Commission participation in Earthfest:** Ms. Ashburn detailed her students' plans for the Earthfest event on May 13<sup>th</sup> at McCook Point Park. Ms. Meekhoff added her plans for a Pollinator Pathway booth and Ms. Heller discussed her plans for a Sustainable CT

booth jointly run with local farmers highlighting the importance of locally grown food and minimizing food waste.

Ms. Ashburn reported that her East Lyme High School students will be presenting a resiliency project at the CT Envirothon May 8<sup>th</sup> at Kellogg State Park. She requested Ms. Heller assist her students in planning the project since it should follow the Sustainable CT format.

**V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**B. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen was absent and no report was given.

**C. Pollinator Pathways.** Ms. Meekhoff reported that she had been interviewed by a reporter for "The Chronical", a Boston television program that will do a story about the planned "York Meadow", a 1.5-acre pollinator planting at York Prison. Warden Trina Sexton attended the interview to explain that the inmates and prison maintenance staff will all be involved in transforming part of the lawn area into a pollinator meadow.

**D. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Carlson had no additional report.

**E. E. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy was absent and no report was given.

**F. MOTION (6):** Ms. Heller moved to adjourn the April 12, 2023 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting at 7:40 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Ashburn. (5-0). Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Heller, Secretary