

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 13, 2025

Present: Penny Heller  
Mark Christensen  
Harvey Beeman  
Marjorie Meekhoff, Alternate

Absent: Don Danila  
Laura Ashburn  
Steve Dinsmore, Alternate

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex Officio

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT  
2025 AUG 18 P 2:34  
TOWN CLERK

**I. CALL TO ORDER.** Ms. Heller, Chair, called the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources of August 13, 2025 meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**II. SEATING ALTERNATES (IF NECESSARY)**

**MOTION (1):** Mr. Beeman moved to seat Ms. Meekhoff for Mr. Danila.  
Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

**III. CALL FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA.** There were no additions to the agenda.

**IV. CALL FOR PUBLIC DELEGATIONS.** There were no guests.

**V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2025 MEETING.**

**MOTION (2):** Mr. Christensen moved to approve the June 11, 2025  
Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources  
Minutes, as presented. (4-0) Unanimous.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Replacement of the Commission Event Tent.** Ms. Heller sent Gary Goeschel an email asking that the Commission's Event Tent be replaced because the existing one is broken. Receiving no reply Ms. Heller spoke with Jessica Laroco who said she could handle the purchase if she received a statement of the reason for the replacement and a screen shot of the suggested vendor and price. Ms. Heller sent her a screen shot from Extreme Canopy, suggesting a 10' X 10' tent for \$250.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Pattagansett Lake Association (PLA) Plans for Aquatic Plant Control and Survey.** (See attached report.)

## **VIII. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. Communications.** Salt Water Results for Connecticut. (See attached report).

**b. Agribusiness Subcommittee.** Mr. Christensen reported there were 75 visitors at the Robert Foster Memorial Tractor Show on June 14 at the Samuel Smith Farmstead.

Terri and Tom Yuhas met with the Vice Principal at the Junior High regarding an agricultural program. They were informed they have to meet the school curriculum and he suggested starting a club. It was not possible at the High School either. They would need a faculty advisor. It was suggested that they go to the Youth Service Bureau. Individuals from UCONN were willing to help. Ms. Heller suggested contacting the Lions and the Leos. They met with Annah Perch, Curator of the Brookside Farm Museum, and she was willing to help.

A seminar at the library is planned with Baldwin Brook Creamery, but no date has been set. A cooking program will be held on October 18 at the library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ms. Meekhoff suggested having a seminar on canning.

Mr. Christensen reported an event on bees will be held at the Samuel Smith Farmstead on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Open Farm Day will be held there on October 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**c. SustainableCT Subcommittee.** Ms. Heller reported a second Compost Survey was completed by the SustainableCT Subcommittee's intern in late June. All survey results were compiled and forwarded to Joe Bragaw for his review and thoughts about starting a Community Composting Program. On July 15 he responded saying the Regional Trash Authority is "on the cusp" of getting the state permit to build a Regional Composting Facility which will be run by Black Earth, a private company. When this facility is operational, each SCRRA community will have curbside composting picked up for a cost and a bin at each transfer station for the residents who prefer to bring their compost free of charge. He stated that he wants to wait for this program to start rather than switch from a private to a public program. Ms. Heller replied that she understood his position and asked to be kept informed.

**d. Pollinator Pathways East Lyme.** Ms. Meekhoff reported they have completed five home assessments this summer.

PPEL are almost ready to submit the AARP Grant for the berm/Senior Center Garden behind the Community Center. They are requesting \$4200 for native trees, shrubs and perennials/grasses.

The berm between the Community Center and Brookside Farm is completely solarized and covered for now. PPEL will assess the progress in killing off invasive vegetation before winter.

The Betty Murphy Memorial Garden is doing well in this heat. The roundabout, a native plant test site, also is doing well. The Samuel Smith Farmstead meadows are being taken care of by new volunteers.

Ms. Meekhoff tagged two good sized trees at Pride Corners Farm, a wholesale nursery in Lebanon, Connecticut. One tree is for the Library Foundation. The other is for the Public Works Department. She will coordinate with Justin Porter to get them delivered. The root balls are approximately 300 pounds.

She informed the Commission PPEL had their first Open House at the two-acre meadow at 4 Church Lane. Twenty-six people attended and some asked if they could return in the fall to see the asters and goldenrod.

She is working on getting an "I-Naturalist" trainer for the winter lecture series. She is also looking for someone to lead a frog hunt in spring.

Parks and Recreation staff have continued to mow the pollinator meadows at Darrow Pond Preserve. Bruce Dasinger, who paid for the meadows destroyed by the mowing, is very upset.

PPEL had the Pollinator Proclamation professionally framed with archival glass. Ms. Meekhoff is waiting to set up a date to have it hung at the Town Hall.

**e. Chairman's Report.** Ms. Heller reported plans for a sidewalk along East Pattagansett Road are moving forward. The road will be reconfigured to ease curves and allow for two crosswalks at Bush Hill Road and Lake View. Work is scheduled for spring 2026.

Ms. Heller requested that Ms. Hardy have the Board of Selectmen put on their agenda approval of the "Complete Streets" policy passed by the Planning Commission last year.

**f. Ex-Officio Report.** Ms. Hardy would like to see restaurants once a month have a colonial event to celebrate the country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. She asked that if anyone would like to join them, please let her know. She suggested that colonial items from the Historical Society or the Library be displayed.

She added the town received a grant from the state for remediation of the former police station. She added the Board of Selectmen plan to form a subcommittee to plan for the property's use. Ms. Heller asked if they plan on incorporating the suggestions in the Yale Charrette and they do.

Ms. Meekhoff suggested having a Time Capsule containing items of the town's recent history. It will cost \$55-\$150.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (3): Mr. Beeman moved to adjourn the August 13, 2025 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (4-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**

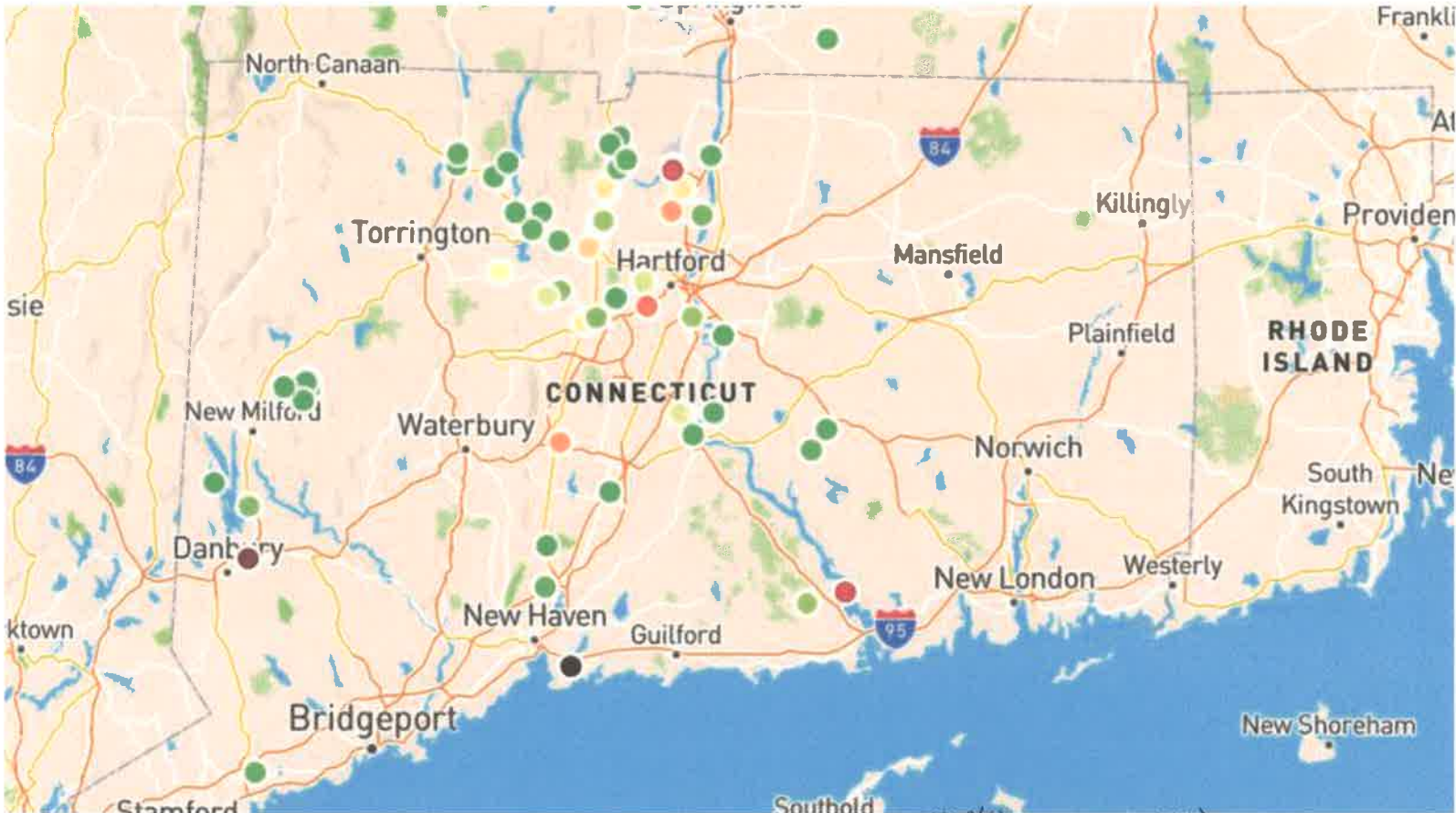
## Pattagansett Lake Association Aquatic Plant Control and Survey:

Operating under a CT DEEP permit, on July 2, the PLA's consultant, The Pond and Lake Connection, treated Pattagansett Lake with the herbicide Clipper (flumioxazin). The treatment worked well, and noxious overgrowth of many aquatic plants was further reduced, particularly within the lake's coves. This treatment allows for more recreational access and movements by various types of watercraft. The PLA board will soon decide whether another treatment is warranted later in August. On July 8, Greg Bugbee and colleagues from the CT Agricultural Experimental Station performed an aquatic vegetation survey in the lake, which was a requirement of the PLA's CT DEEP permit. CAES will provide a report of their findings to the PLA when it is completed. The Association paid for the treatment and plant survey from donations received from its members. Hydroraking, which removes some aquatic vegetation and bottom sediments (mostly muck), will again occur this fall for participating households, which pay for this service. This work primarily increases water depth by removing these materials, which again eases access mostly in the lake's shallow cove areas.

# SALT WATCH® RESULTS CONNECTICUT



Staff distributed 54 Salt Watch kits to residents in Connecticut.



Total chloride readings: **233**

● 0-30 mg/L:	<b>59</b>
● 30-100 mg/L:	<b>95</b>
● 100-230 mg/L:	<b>51</b>
● 230+ mg/L:	<b>28</b>

