

## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 7:00 PM

### EAST LYME PLANNING COMMISSION

East Lyme, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, East Lyme, Connecticut

#### Lower Level Conference/Break Room

**CHAIR:** Brian Bohmbach

**PLANNING DIRECTOR:** Gary Goeschel II

**VICE CHAIR:** Nick Menapace

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Vacancy

**SECRETARY:** Rich Gordon

**CALL TO ORDER :** Chairman Bohmbach called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

#### ROLL CALL + PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Bohmbach took roll call: In attendance: Nick Menapace, Rich Gordon, Tom Fitting, Tim LeDuc, and Nina Franco were seated. Alternates Bill Delaney and Kevin Mills were also present along with Ex-Officio Selectwoman Cindy Collins. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

#### I. PLANNING COMMISSION, ALTERNATE VACANCY

##### A. Discussion of interested candidates, nominations, and appointment to fill the Vacancy of Planning Commission Alternate

**Chairman Bohmbach** reviewed the list of interested candidates which included the following individuals: (1) Bill Follett, (2) Chis Hermann, (3 )Michelle Maitland, and (4) Mario Richards.

**G. Goeschel**, Planning Director, noted that Danielle Deeble withdrew her letter of interest.

**Chairman Bohmbach** offered each candidate an opportunity to be heard regarding their background and interest in serving on the Commission.

**Bill Follett** spoke first and indicated he has served on municipal boards and commissions in the Town of Wilton, CT. He's volunteered at the Weir Farm, though his church he's volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. He currently sits on the Brookside Museum Board and has reviewed the minutes of the Planning Commission for the last year.

**Chris Hermann**, introduced himself, indicated he lived in Pin Grove and is a father of four. He worked most of his career as an Environmental Contractor. He owns several commercial properties, is retired and has the time to serve.

**Michelle Maitland**, spoke next stating her address as Acorn Drive and has resided her for the last 20-years. She said she's worked for non-profits and the Coast Guard Admission Office mainly on their marketing. She worked as a communications specialist for the United Way as well. She is currently the MS4 Facilitator for the Town of Groton DPW. She's volunteers at the Brookside Farm Museum and would like to put he skills to use for the Town of East Lyme.

**N. Menapace**, asked if she was on the Board at Brookside.

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**M. Maitland**, replied she is the Vice Chair of the Friends of Brookside and not on the board.

**Mario Richards**, was last to speak. Mario indicated he's lived in town for about 12-yr's and works in Windsor Locks. He said he retired as an NCO in the National Guard and looks at this opportunity as another way to serve.

After hearing from the candidates Chairman Bohmbach stated he felt all four candidates were well qualified and made his first call for nominations.

**MOTION (1):** N. Menapace moved to nominate Michelle Maitland.  
**SECOND:** N. Franco  
**DISCUSSION:** R. Gordon stated he thinks Michelles is passionate about serving. K. Mills said he thinks she'd be a good fit.  
**VOTE:** Unanimous (6-0-0)

**Chairman Bohmbach**, made a second call for nominations.

**MOTION (2):** Tim Laducer moved to nominate William Follet as he thinks he's well qualified and was the first to respond of all the candidates.  
**SECOND:** B. Bohmbach  
**DISCUSSION:** None  
**VOTE:** Unanimous (6-0-0)

**Chairman Bohmbach**, made a third and final call for nominations. Hearing none, Chairman Bohmbach closed the nominations. The Chairman, then called for a motion to appoint one of the candidates to the position of Planning Commission Alternate.

**MOTION (3):** N. Menapace moved to appoint Michelle Maitland to the position of Planning Commission Alternate.  
**SECOND:** N. Franco  
**DISCUSSION:** B. Bohmbach indicated he thought Michelle has slightly more planning-related experience.  
**VOTE:** Motion Carried (5-0-1)

## II. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION (1):** N. Menapace moved to adjourn the meeting  
**SECOND:** K. Mills  
**DISCUSSION:** None.  
**VOTE:** Unanimous (6-0-0); Meeting Adjourned at 7:18PM

Respectfully Submitted



Gary A. Goeschel II, Director of Planning