

East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2012

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Penny Heller, Secretary
Marvin Schutt, Member
Tom Kalal, Member
Mark Christiansen, Member
Ron Nichols, Alternate
Laura Ashburn, Alternate

FILED Feb 21, 2012
AT 1:45 P.M.
J. Ashburn, etc
TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy

Call to Order. Chairman Carlson called the February 8, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Carlson requested that his chairman's report be moved to the beginning of the agenda so that he could review with the members what he would be presenting at the Board of Finance meeting later that evening. The substance of his presentation was to emphasize the connection between open space and watershed preservation.

II. Public Delegations. There were no public delegations.

III. Minutes of January 11, 2012. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the January 11, 2012, East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting Minutes.

The following correction was noted: On page 3, under item IV.C. The last sentence should read: "Penny Heller informed the Commission that Mr. Gephard (CT DEEP Inland Fisheries Division) stated to her that he would facilitate the installation of a fishway if and when the Town works on the road."

MOTION (1): Mr. Schutt moved to accept the January 11, 2012, East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Christiansen. (5-0) Unanimous.

IV. Old Business.

A. Nature of East Lyme Programs.

- i. Foot Paths (Nehantic Forest Update). Mr. Carlson reported that he and Mr. Schutt were preparing volunteers to mark trails in this forest. Mr. Carlson also reported that the Town's attorney is reviewing the lease agreement between the Town and Yale University allowing access to the Yale Outdoor Recreation Area and permission to upgrade existing trails. Mr. Carlson pointed out that trails on the Yale property are restricted to foot traffic only.

- ii. Forest Management. Mr. Carlson reported that he would be meeting with Dick Raymond (CT DEEP Forester) to tour the Darrow Pond property to inventory the property's forest resources.
 - iii. Water Quality Town Wide. Mr. Carlson suggested that this Commission be a clearing house for all water quality data generated within the Town's boundaries.
- B. Open space plan updates. No new actions.
 - C. Uses of Darrow Pond. No new actions.
 - D. Forest Forum Workshop. The workshop is still planned for April.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Budget. At the Commission's prior request, Mr. Carlson drafted two letters and delivered final copies to the Board of Selectmen after members reviewed and edited their content through email. The first letter concerned the Commission's budget, requesting that money be included to hire a grant writer to facilitate acquisition of open space and, for the same purpose, that the Town Planner's time allotted to the Commission be increased. The second letter requested that the Commission be assigned the duties of managing all of the Town's open space properties.

MOTION (2): Mr. Christiansen move to approve both letters, which had been discussed at previous meetings and sent to the Board of Selectmen (as attached). Seconded by Ms. Heller. Mr. Schutt recused himself from the vote. (4-0) Unanimous. Mr. Schutt was reseated.

- B. Public Communications/Outreach. Mr. Kalal reported that the Agricultural Subcommittee met with Mr. Goeschel about formalizing a list of potential farmland and people who wished to farm so that the town could participate in a state program, called "Farmland Connections" which would provide technical support for new farm enterprises. Mr. Christiansen said that some of the land that might qualify for this program is owned by the East Lyme/Niantic Land Trust. Mr. Carlson suggested that Town-purchased open space should be considered for this program. Mr. Carlson also mentioned that the Commission should make plans for more public outreach.

- C. Ex-Officio. Ms. Hardy stated that budget reviews start next week and that she thought the Commission's request for additional monies will mean that we will be asked to meet with the Board of Selectmen.

- D. Adjournment.

MOTION (3): Mr. Christiansen move to adjourn the February 5, 2012, Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Schutt (5-0) Unanimous.