

East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2012

Present: Arthur Carlson, Chairman
Marvin Schutt, Member
Tom Kalal, Member
Mark Christiansen, Member
Penny Heller, Member

Absent: Ron Nichols, Alternate

Also Present: Gary Goeschel, Planning Director
Rose Ann Hardy

Call to Order. Chairman Carlson called the January 11, 2012 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Carlson asked for nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2012.

MOTION (1): Mr. Christiansen moved to nominate Art Carlson as Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

There were no other nominations.

MOTION (2): Mr. Christiansen moved to close nominations for Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

A vote was taken and Mr. Carlson was unanimously elected Chairman of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2012.

Mr. Carlson asked for nominations for Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2012.

MOTION (3): Mr. Christiansen moved to nominate Penny Heller as Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

There were no other nominations.

MOTION (4): Mr. Christiansen moved to close nominations for Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

A vote was taken and Penny Heller was unanimously elected Secretary of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources for 2012.

I. Additions to the Agenda.

MOTION (5): Mr. Carlson moved to add to this evening's Agenda under Old Business Foot Paths (Yale Update). Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

II. Public Delegations. There were no public delegations.

III. Minutes.

A. Minutes of December 14, 2011. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the December 14, 2011 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting Minutes.

The following correction was noted: On page 2, under item A. 1. Mr. Migdalski's name was incorrectly spelled.

MOTION (6): Mr. Schutt moved to accept the December 14, 2011 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Christensen. (4-0) Unanimous.

IV. Old Business.

A. Nature of East Lyme Programs.

i. Foot Paths (Niantic Forest Update). Mr. Carlson discussed the method to be used to blaze the Niantic Forest with the DEEP Park Ranger. He agreed with the method we plan to use. Mr. Christiansen reported an individual is willing to use his excavator at no charge for new trails. Mr. Carlson felt the Town should take advantage of his offer.

Yale Property. Mr. Carlson reported he met with Mr. Migdalski who supports foot paths in the Yale outdoor recreation area.

Town Attorney is reviewing a draft lease.

ii. Forest Management. Mr. Carlson reported a State Forester will walk Darrow Pond with this Commission and inform it of the health of the forest. He read from the Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association Newsletter 2003.

Rose Ann Hardy arrived.

iii. Rapid Bio-Assessment. Mr. Carlson reported the Water Department has been measuring water run off in East Lyme for several years and ten years of data is available.

The Commission reviewed a chart of Natural Resource Elements at locations in East Lyme and a map of the Open Space Plan.

Mr. Goeschel reported the Nature Conservancy is concerned about sea level rising. East Lyme is trying to determine the Town's risks and what it should do long term. The Planning Commission has Climate Adaptation and Sustainability Subcommittee. It would be helpful to have a liaison from this Commission to work together on it. Ms. Heller agreed to work with them.

Mr. Christiansen reported there is a new program for small farms. The Town would need to partner with them.

B. Open Space Plan Updates and Corrections. Mr. Goeschel will finalize and republish the Open Space Plan.

C. Uses of Darrow Pond. Mr. Christiansen felt hay would be the best use on the Darrow Pond property.

Mr. Carlson reported Mr. Gephard of DEEP felt there was great potential for Alewife living in Darrow Pond. Penny Heller informed the Commission that Mr. Gephard stated to her he will put in a fishway when the Town works on the road.

D. Forest Forum Workshop. Mr. Carlson recommended having the State Forester come to East Lyme in March and have a Forest Forum Workshop at the Community Center.

V. New Business

A. Budget. Mr. Goeschel presented a draft budget for this Commission. Mr. Carlson suggested reducing Meetings/Conferences/Training/Dues line item by \$200 and adding \$200 to the Printing and Brochures line item.

MOTION (7): **Mr. Christiansen move to approved the proposed
Operating Budget for the Conservation of
Natural Resources Commission for 2012/2013**

in the amount of \$2,100, after reducing Meeting/Conferences/Training/Dues line item by \$200 and adding \$200 to Printing and Brochures line item. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

Commission members would like the Town to hire a staff person to assist with grant writing and for open space consulting. It was felt that this Commission should submit an addendum to its budget in order to accomplish what it needs that it is unable to do as volunteers.

B. Public Communication/Outreach. Mr. Christiansen reported a Solar Park in an open space area is being reviewed. He visited a Solar Park in Massachusetts. He did not feel this was a good idea if a zone change to commercial is made. Rose Ann Hardy asked if solar panels can be placed in an open space area? Mr. Goeschel agreed to check on the use of the land.

Tom Kalal arrived.

VI. Reports and Communications

B. Staff/Communications. Mr. Schutt asked Mr. Goeschel if money has been made available for the purchase of open space? Mr. Goeschel replied \$30,000 has been added to the Capital Improvement Plan.

MOTION (8): Mr. Kalal moved to authorize the Chairman to add an addendum to the budget outlining other fiscal requests to support this Commission. Seconded by Penny Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

C. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson recommended that this Commission advertise upcoming events on Channel 22 or Channel 24.

Mr. Carlson read from Connecticut Statues §7-131a.

Mr. Carlson suggested participating in the Connecticut Forest and Park Association Connecticut Trails Day celebration on June 2-3. There was a general consensus that this was a good idea.

D. Ex-officio. Rose Ann Hardy reported Penny Heller is now a full time member of this Commission. Ron Nichols has been reappointed as an Alternate. A new alternate has also been appointed.

Marvin Schutt will be honored by the Rotary on February 11 at the Marriott for his community efforts.

VII. Adjournment.

MOTION (9): **Mr. Schutt move to adjourn the January 11, 2012,
Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Commission
for the Conservation of Natural Resources
at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christiansen, (5-0)
Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary