

East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2012

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

FILED Mar 19, 2012
AT 12:45 PM.
L. Blais, atc
TOWN CLERK

Absent: Tom Kalal, Member

Call to Order. Chairman Carlson called the March 14, 2012 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Additions to the Agenda. There were no additions to the Agenda.

II. Public Delegations. There were no public delegations.

III. Minutes.

A. Minutes of February 8, 2012. Mr. Carlson asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the February 8, 2012 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting Minutes.

The following correction was noted: On page 2, the second motion to be revised as follows:

“MOTION (2): Mr. Christiansen moved 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 on the second letter only and voted in favor on the first letter. (4-0) Unanimous. Mr. Schutt was reseated.”

It should be noted in the February 8, 2012 East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Regular Meeting the minutes were submitted by Penny Heller.

MOTION (1): Mr. Schutt moved to accept the February 8, 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 (Nehantic Forest Update). Mr. Carlson reported the Nehantic Forest foot paths will be marked at springtime.

He had positive meetings with Yale. Aerial views were reviewed. We may cross property from Darrow's Pond and go up to the Nehantic Forest. Mr. Carlson plans to meet with the manager and caretaker of the Yale property to get his input.

ii. Forest Management. Mr. Carlson had a second walk with State Forester Dick Raymond who will give us a plan.

Ms. Heller reported the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources gave a presentation on New England rabbit vs. the Eastern cottontail. The New England rabbit is on the list of endangered species. Funds may be available for Darrow Pond. The New England rabbit needs 15 acres of open land. Ms. Heller agreed to contact a Wildlife Biologist at DEEP to have discussion with him regarding this matter.

A Committee has been formed to determine what should be done with the Darrow Pond property.

Mr. Christiansen shared correspondence he received from the Department of Agriculture, UCONN Cooperative Extension.

iii. Water Quality Townwide. Ms. Heller stated every year a member of this Commission has to meet with Mike Beauchene and be trained. Ms. Ashburn agreed to contact him.

B. Open Space Plan Updates and Corrections. Mr. Carlson reported the Open Space Plan should be finalized soon.

C. Uses of Darrow Pond. Mr. Carlson is a member of the Committee to determine uses of Darrow Pond. He feels there are areas suitable for hayfields and with great pastures. Ms. Heller felt it was a prime habitat for the New England cottontail. The dam needs to be replaced and there could be a fishway.

D. Forest Forum Workshop. Mr. Carlson suggested that this Commission work with and sponsor a Forest Forum Workshop. Students may also participate.

V. New Business

A. DEEP-Open Space & Land Acquisition Grant Programs. Mr. Carlson has asked Gary Goeschel to get together with a grant writer and apply for this grant program.

VI. Reports and Communications

A. Staff/Communications. Mr. Goeschel was unable to be present, and there was no report.

B. Chairman's Report. Mr. Carlson gave copies of Stream Flow Regulations to Commission members.

Mr. Carlson was informed that this Commission has a new alternate Susan Hermanson.

MOTION (2): Mr. Christiansen moved to go into Executive Session at 8:35 to discuss open space purchases. Seconded by Ms. Heller. (5-0) Unanimous.

No action was taken.

MOTION (3): Mr. Kalal moved to close the Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. (5-0) Unanimous.

C. Ex-officio. Ms. Hardy was unable to be present, and there was no report.

VII. Adjournment.

MOTION (4): Mr. Kalal move to adjourn the March 14, 2012, Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Christiansen, (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

