

**EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AUGUST 11, 2009  
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present:

Art Carlson, Chairman  
Marvin Schutt  
Tom Kalal  
Mark Christensen

Members Absent:

Ruth Reluga  
Joe Mingo, Alternate  
Ron Nichols, Alternate

FILED IN EAST LYME TOWN  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
Aug 12 20 09 at 8:05 <sup>AM</sup> <sub>PM</sub>  
Esther B. Williams  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1. Additional Agenda Items

Tom Kalal asked that Locally Important Soil and Artificial Turf Field be added under Old Business

2. Public Delegations

There were no public delegations

3. Acceptance of Minutes

**Motion (1) Marvin Schutt moved to accept the Minutes of the July 14, 2009 Regular Meeting.**

**Seconded by Tom Kalal**

Chairman Carlson stated on the second page under Old Business, Agricultural Commission it should say:

“Tom Kalal discussed the proposed Agricultural Commission Ordinance. He stated they had received a letter dated September 11, 2008 from Mr. Formica asking them to develop a proposed Agricultural Commission Ordinance.

Chairman Carlson asked that Mr. Kalal and Mr. Christensen finalize the proposed Agricultural Commission Ordinance, and send a copy to each member of this Commission prior to the next meeting for review. He would like to vote on this at the next meeting.”

**Motion Passed 4-0 (as amended.)**

4. Old Business

a. Open Space Plan

Chairman Carlson presented the Open Space Plan to the Planning Commission on August 4<sup>th</sup>. They did not vote that night. He feels this Commission should have a written position letter on the Open Space Plan, which would essentially be a statement of facts.

b. Agricultural Commission

Agriculture viability grants were discussed. These are only available if there is an Agricultural Commission.

Mark Christensen discussed various grants that have been awarded in the past few years. There are one million dollars in grants awarded every year.

- Blue Hills Farm in Durham received \$15,000.00 for pasture expansion.
- Salem Herb Farm received \$45,000.00 for construction of greenhouse.
- Farmer's Cow in Lebanon received \$50,000.00 for promotional brand recognition.
- In 2007 the Clinton Shellfish Commission received \$29,500.00 to restore the Shellfish population.
- Colchester received \$31,000.00 to rank agricultural land.
- Guilford received \$50,000.00 in 2006 and 2007.

**Motion (2) Mark Christensen moved to adopt the Town of East Lyme Agricultural Commission Ordinance as submitted (Schedule A)**

**Seconded by Tom Kalal**

**Motion Passed 4-0.**

Discussion followed on the letter that Mr. Schutt had prepared to Mr. Formica and the Board of Selectmen that would accompany the proposed Ordinance.

**Motion (3) Mark Christensen moved to approve the draft letter with amendments.**

**Seconded by Tom Kalal**

**Motion Passed 4-0.**

c. Water Monitoring

Bio-assessment day is still scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>. Everyone will meet at the police station from 9-11. Then they will do field work and be back at the police station by 2:00 for a wrap up.

d. Locally Important Soil

Tom Kalal discussed what he learned from the Town Planner in Canterbury. By designating the local soils they increase the chances to receive grants and increase the chances of farmland preservation.

Chairman Carlson said the designation of the town's soils has already been done. There is a map and a report.

Tom Kalal will get that map and report and present it to the Natural Resource Conservation Service for their acceptance.

e. Artificial Turf

Educating the town on this was discussed. This Commission will not take a stand for or against it, but would like to make everyone aware of the consequences.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Chairman's Report

There was a great turnout at Celebrate East Lyme.

Tom Kalal asked if they could send a thank you to Sandy Taylor for her help with the pictures in their display. Chairman Carlson asked Mr. Kalal to do that.

Chairman Carlson is still working with Yale on the footpaths.

In the Fall he would like to research all Town Property that is on the water. There are many places that are unknown. It was agreed that would be a good project.

7. Adjournment

**Motion (4) Mark Christensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.**

**Seconded by Tom Kalal**

**Motion Passed 4-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Miller Galbo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "G".

Karen Miller Galbo  
Recording Secretary

# Schedule A

①

## Town of East Lyme Agricultural Commission

### § 1. Vision

East Lyme is a community that is educated about, understands, and supports agriculture.

### § 2. Commission established, qualifications of members.

The Board of Selectman shall appoint an Agricultural Commission consisting of five members and two alternates. All members of the Commission must be electors and residents of the Town.

### § 3. Mission

The mission of the Agricultural Commission is to support agriculture and aquaculture in East Lyme through education, communication, conflict resolution, regulatory guidance, and promoting the economic viability of farming.

### § 4. Powers and Duties

The powers and duties of the Agricultural Commission are as follows:

#### A. Information:

1. Serve as a conduit between nonprofit agencies and local farmers;
2. Serve as an agricultural clearinghouse by creating an informational website and map of local farms;
3. Chart land use in East Lyme to support balance between agriculture and preservation and other land uses.

#### B. Education:

1. Recommend necessary changes to language and practices across Town departments and other boards and commissions as necessary regarding a local definition for agriculture, farming and farms;
2. Educate town government about agricultural laws, such as Right to Farm, and legal issues regarding farm machines;
3. Provide information and guidance on agriculture-related zoning issues to town departments and other boards and commissions as necessary.



4. Provide opportunities to support young farmers and new farmers, such as the Farmer-to-Farmer program, Landlink and other mentoring programs.
5. Support local, regional, and state vocational agriculture education programs.

**C. Conflict Resolution:**

1. Serve in an advisory and/or conflict resolution capacity to residents, established Town committees and departments.

**D. Economic Opportunities:**

1. Identify innovative opportunities for farming additional lands in East Lyme;
2. Promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to support and value farming;
3. Serve as a conduit between nonprofit agencies, funders and local farmers;
4. Create a climate that supports the economic viability of farming as a career in East Lyme.

**§ 5. Membership.**

- A. The agricultural commission will consist of five members and two alternates. Initial members shall be appointed within 30 days of approval of this regulation.
- B. Members and alternates will be appointed without regard to political affiliation by the Board of Selectman, and not be subject to nomination by any political party.
- C. Insofar as practical, members appointed shall be representative of all groups interested in the management, protection and regulation of agriculture as defined by Connecticut General Statute §1-1q, particularly those directly involved in agriculture.
- D. The agriculture commission will recommend to the Board of Selectman persons for openings on the commission.

**§ 6. Vacancies.**

Any vacancy in the membership of the Commission which may be the result of the death, resignation or removal of a member or from any other cause shall be filled for the unexpired term of such member by the Board of Selectmen.

**§ 7. Terms; compensation.**

A. Terms: staggered four-year terms, with initial appointments to be three members for four years and two members for two years; one alternate to be for four years and two alternates for two years

B. Members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

**§ 8. Officers.**

The members of the Commission shall meet and elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary annually in December or as may be necessary.

**§ 9. Meetings; rules and regulations; quorum; absences.**

A. The Commission shall hold regular meetings and shall designate the time and place thereof and shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of business within its jurisdiction and shall keep a record of all its proceedings.

B. Three members shall constitute a quorum. When a member shall fail to be present for four consecutive meetings or at 1/4 of meetings held in any one fiscal year, his or her membership shall be vacant, unless his or her absence is excused by the Commission and the reason thereof entered into the record of the Commission's proceedings. If a vacancy occurs by virtue of absences as described above, the vacancy for the unexpired term shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen.

**§ 10. Budget.**

The Agricultural Commission, at the regularly designated time, shall submit an estimate of anticipated expenditures for the coming fiscal year to the Board of Selectmen. The Commission shall operate within the budget as approved.

**§ 11. Reports.**

The Commission shall from time to time, but not less often than annually, submit a report for inclusion in the Town's annual report, and may submit other such reports as may be requested from time to time.

**§ 12. Gifts and Donations.**

The Commission may solicit or receive gifts or bequests or other personal property or any donation to be used, as principal or income, for municipal and/or agricultural purposes.