

COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING
EAST LYME TOWN HALL
JANUARY 12, 2010

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Chairman Art Carlson
Ruth Reluga
Marvin Schutt
Mark Christensen
Tom Kalal

Also Present:

Gary Goeschel, Conservation Officer

FILED IN EAST LYME TOWN
CLERK'S OFFICE

Jan 15 20 10 at 8:20 ^{AM} PM

Esther B. Williams

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion (1) Tom Kalal moved to add under Old Business the Discussion of the Agenda, and under New Business the Aquifer Protection Zone.

Seconded by Ruth Reluga

Motion Passed

Yes - 5 (Ruth Reluga, Marvin Schutt, Tom Kalal, Mark Christensen, Art Carlson)

No - 0

Motion (2) Mark Christensen moved that the Nature of East Lyme Program be removed from Old Business, and the following be added under New Business
The Nature of East Lyme Program

3. Surface Water Quality
4. Bird Census
5. Invasive Species
6. Tree and Plant Identification.

And to add under New Business, the Letter to RoseAnn Hardy regarding the Agriculture Commission.

Seconded by Ruth Reluga

Motion Passed.

Yes - 5 (Ruth Reluga, Marvin Schutt, Tom Kalal, Mark Christensen, Art Carlson)

No - 0

III. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

There were no public delegations.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8, 2009 MEETING

Motion (3) Ruth Reluga moved to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2009 Meeting.

Seconded by Tom Kalal.

Ms. Reluga stated it can be stricken on Page Three where it states the reason Tom Kalal abstained from voting, and on Page Four she would like the Bio Assessment of Inland Waters to be added under this Commission's list of accomplishments that Chairman Carlson listed.

Motion Passed

Yes - 5 (Ruth Reluga, Marvin Schutt, Tom Kalal, Mark Christensen, Art Carlson)

No - 0

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA

There was a discussion of when and how the agenda is prepared every month. Chairman Carlson and Gary Goeschel work together to prepare it usually on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. It was agreed that they would review the prior meeting's minutes before preparing the agenda, so no items would be left off.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. NATURE OF EAST LYME PROGRAM

Chairman Carlson handed out information on the different areas of this program. Next month he would like to discuss what areas the members of this Commission have an interest in and would like to work on. (See attached Exhibit A)

1. EAST LYME FOREST MANAGEMENT

2. NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION (NITROGEN/PHOSPHORUS) REDUCTION PROGRAM.

3. SURFACE WATER QUALITY

4. BIRD CENSUS

Ruth Reluga stated the Audubon Society already does this, and Chairman Carlson stated we would have to make sure we get the results.

5. INVASIVE SPECIES

6. TREE AND PLANT IDENTIFICATION

B. LETTER TO ROSEANN HARDY REGARDING AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

The Commission reviewed the letter, which addresses all of the questions that were raised by the Board of Selectmen (attached as Exhibit B.)

C. ACQUIFER PROTECTION ZONE

Tom Kalal wanted to advise the Commission that other towns have started to establish these zones.

Chairman Carlson stated the Zoning Regulations have an Aquifer Protection Zone, which has been designated by the DEP.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Carlson discussed a Simsbury Dairy Farm that is used as a teaching farm.

The letter to the owners referenced in the Open Space Plan is ready for typing. The letter will be included in a folder of materials being sent out.

There is an Alternate Position open on this Commission; we can suggest someone to the Board of Selectmen if we know of anyone.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion (4) Mark Christensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Seconded by Marvin Schutt.

Motion Passed

Yes - 5 (Ruth Reluga, Marvin Schutt, Tom Kalal, Mark Christensen, Art Carlson)

No - 0

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Miller Galbo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Karen Miller Galbo
Recording Secretary**

Exhibit A

Nature of East Lyme Programs: To determine and establish these programs that involve the protection or enhancement of our natural resources.

1. Invasive Species:

Objective: To identify and locate on a Town map invasive species, to form a living library, if you will. Further determine the best method(s) to control or eradicate.

Ref. Charlotte Pyle, PhD
USDA Tolland, CT
(860) 871-4066

2. Surface Water Quality Measurement

Objective:

- A. Measure surface water quality using the rapid bio-assessment technique at least in our four main watersheds; Four Mile River, Bride Brook, Pattagansett Lake and Latimer Brook.
- B. Stream Observation monitoring to find potential problem(s) that might affect water quality such as erosion, inadequate stream side vegetation or discharge into the stream.
- C. Physical and chemical monitoring for dissolved oxygen, P.H., toxicity, etc.

Ref. East Lyme Streambelt Study

3. Nitrogen Reduction in Surface Waters

Objective: Develop a town wide program which will result in minimum amount of Nitrogen being added to lawns, turf and agricultural crops thereby reducing the run off of now excess Nitrogen into streams. Use soil measurement of needed nitrogen (by soil testing) to calculate proper nitrogen load.

4. Forest Management

Objective: Survey our public forest areas and develop a forest management plan to maximize CO₂ sequestration, improve growth of important species and develop a lumber and planting plan. The initial work with the public lands could work as a model for private lands.

Ref. Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan and Use State Forester for Initial Survey

5. Bird Census

Objective: Conduct an annual bird census to serve as one measure of the state of our environment.

Ref. Use Audabon Society procedures

6. Tree and Plant Identification

Objective: To identify and mark plants and trees in public areas such as parks, athletic areas, boardwalks etc., to inform the public of their existence. This will also give a measure of the quality of our environment.

Exhibit B

MEMO

Date: 1/13/10

Subject: Proposed Ordinance for an Agricultural Commission (AgCom)

Reference (a): Board of Selectman Meeting, January 6, 2010

Dear Selectman Rose Ann Hardy, (the BOS representative for the Farm Community)

First of all, thank you for arranging the speaker and the opportunity for the Conservation of Natural Resources Commission representatives to participate in the discussion at Reference (a).

This Memo is written to acknowledge the comments/concerns in Reference (a), and resolution thereof, regarding the subject Ordinance as follows:

1. The potential increased cost of having another Commission.
2. The concern over having the subject AgCom involved in "conflict resolution" from a legal standpoint.
3. The possible redundancy between the function of the existing East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission and including Aquaculture in the Mission Statement of the proposed Ordinance.
4. The question of whether the number of Agriculturalists (farmers) in East Lyme justifies the need for an AgCom.
5. Why not have a Subcommittee of the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources instead of a stand alone AgCom?

The following Resolutions for corresponding items 1 – 5 above are as follows:

1. It has been determined by contact with other Commissions with similar missions that the administrative cost can range between \$300 and \$500 per year. If a budget allocation of this amount is considered excessive the AgCom would be sustained financially by grant money, sponsorship, donations or fund raising.
2. The proposed AgCom Ordinance is patterned after the approved AgCom Ordinance for the Town of Guilford with "conflict resolution" in the Mission Statement. It is recommended that the words "conflict resolution" be removed completely from the subject AgCom Ordinance because they are not necessary.
3. The East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission is and will remain the regulatory agency for Aquaculture while the AgCom may assist the aquaculture

community by obtaining grant money or collaborating in farm markets or other projects with a common interest.

4. There are 93 parcels of farmland on 3,464 acres in the Town of East Lyme. About 72 parcels on 2,137 acres are being farmed actively. 21 parcels on 1,327 acres are not being farmed actively at this time. This data is an excerpt from the 2009 P.O.C.D.

Also, there are nearly 700 acres of the bottom in Niantic Bay leased for the cultivation of hard clams or quahogs.

5. An AgCom has a permanency that a Subcommittee does not. Customarily, a Subcommittee is established to manage a short term project and is disbanded upon project completion.

The purpose of an AgCom is to support Agriculture and Aquaculture in the Town of East Lyme. This requires the concentrated continuing effort of people knowledgeable, experienced and interested in Agriculture and Aquaculture. This is what a "Farm Friendly Town" should do on a full time permanent basis.

It has been determined by experience to date, that the Commission for Conservation of Natural Resources has enough to handle and does not have the time/manpower to properly promote the interests of the Agriculture and Aquaculture communities.

Sincerely,

Martin Schutt, Sec'y for
Arthur Carlson, Chairman