

EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

REGULAR MEETING
EAST LYME TOWN HALL
APRIL 13, 2010
MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Art Carlson, Chairman
Marvin Schutt
Tom Kalal
Mark Christensen
Ron Nichols, Alternate

FILED IN EAST LYME TOWN
CLERK'S OFFICE

April 22 2010 at 2:47 AM PM

Esther B. Williams

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Members Absent

Ruth Reluga

Also Present

Penny Howell Heller
Gary Goeschel, Town Planner

I. Call the meeting to order

Mr. Carlson called the April 13, 2010 Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. Additions to the Agenda.

Mr. Carlson asked to add the Agricultural Sub-Committee to the Agenda

III. Public Delegations

There were none.

IV. Approval of Minutes from March 9, 2010 Meeting

MOTION (1)

Mr. Schutt moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2010 Regular Meeting as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Christensen.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

V. Old Business

A. Nature of East Lyme Program

1. East Lyme Forest Management

Mr. Carlson said he had the name of a State Forester who will free of charge walk through any forest we ask and give his opinion of the condition of that forest.

2. Non-point Source Pollution (Nitrogen/Phosphorus) Reduction Program

Mr. Carlson said he read the report and questioned how the information would be delivered to the public.

3. Surface Water Quality

The rapid bio assessment would be done again in the fall and again the question was how the results would be displayed. Mr. Carlson suggested maps of East Lyme highlighting the area of the study, and displaying them in the town hall, the high school and then to the community center.

4. Bird Census

The idea of the bird census was to give a state of the nature of the town. Mr. Carlson suggested a map would also be appropriate for displaying this information.

5. Invasive Species

Mr. Carlson and Mrs. Heller are working on this together. Ms. Heller said she is investigating the state data base for information. One of the purposes of this study is to provide residents with information on how to safely eradicate any invasive species from their property.

6. Tree & Plant Identification

Mr. Carlson said the idea of this study was to identify and tag the different trees and plants to help educate the public. Mr. Goeschel said that Mr. Mingo has offered assistance with this effort.

7. Footpaths

Mr. Schutt and Mr. Carlson are working on this together and the first place they would like to start with is the Town Land Fill site which is 50 acres. There is a meeting scheduled with Town Engineering to organize this. Mr. Goeschel has a 3-D version of the GIS system to assist in this effort. Mr. Carlson suggested partnering with the Parks & Rec. Commission and asking our Commission for their opinion. The idea was well received. Mr. Schutt suggested this could be an alternative to the boardwalk situation.

B. Website

Mrs. Reluga has been working on this and was not present for comment.

Mr. Carlson had written an introduction to the Commission to be used on the website, explaining the Commission's roles and responsibilities. Mr. Schutt commented that the results of these efforts should be consolidated.

C. Grants: Preparation and Procurement

Mr. Carlson and Mr. Goeschel have been working together on this effort. Mr. Carlson has met with Ann Faust, who is a grant writer, Mr. Goeschel is currently working with her on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Carlson has also met with Amy Patterson, of the Trust for Public Lands who handles all the legal issues with open space acquisitions. Mr. Goeschel commented on grant money to acquire open space property.

D. Turf Field

Mrs. Reluga expressed concern about the proposed artificial turf for the High School Football field, in an e-mail. This prompted introduction of a letter dated November 22, 2009 from our Commission to the Board of Education. This letter emphasized the importance of making absolutely sure the surface water run-off from the proposed artificial turf into the aquifer, which provides the town's drinking water, does not have a deleterious effect on the quality of this drinking water. Discussion ensued and it was

agreed by the Commissioners present that the letter as written was satisfactory, and that no further action was necessary.

E. Open Space Preservation

There was a letter presented to the First Selectman by Chairman Carlson which was approved and signed. Mr. Goeschel is in the process of having 65 letters mailed out to residents owning a parcel(s) of open space, identified in the Open Space Plan, which should be preserved if the resident so desires.

F. Environmental Stewardship

Mr. Kalal commented on educating the community, young people in particular. There was discussion about how to accomplish this effort. Mr. Kalal mentioned that the Colchester Land Trust was willing to come and speak with the Commission. Mr. Schutt suggested more involvement with public relations. Mrs. Heller said the High School has an environmental club that could be an outlet. Mr. Goeschel suggested a newsletter distributed town-wide, also the television channel 22 and the internet for distributing information. There was discussion about Celebrate East Lyme and a plan for a display there.

VI. New Business

Mr. Carlson read a letter that was sent by the First Selectman regarding the formation of an Agricultural Sub-committee. It was decided that a Sub-committee should be formed, reporting to our Commission, and that the need for it to become a Commission be re-assessed in one year. There was discussion about the process of forming a Sub-committee and under which Board or Commission the committee would operate. It was decided to have a special meeting to formalize the selection of members for the Sub-committee.

Mr. Christensen asked if there was documented information regarding the impact of flooding within East Lyme. Mr. Goeschel had information regarding the inundation areas of East Lyme and how to access this data.

VII. Chairman's Report

Mr. Carlson re-iterated the idea of maps to display the results of all the studies being done within the Commission. Mr. Goeschel discussed the GIS system and a study being done on the return on this investment.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION (2)

Mr. Schutt moved to adjourn the April 13, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources at 7:40 PM.

Seconded by Mr. Christensen.

Motion Carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zoe Zrakas, Recording Secretary