

COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULAR MEETING
EAST LYME TOWN HALL
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 6:00 P.M.

FILED IN EAST LYME
Sept 21, 2010 AT 3:15 M

MEETING MINUTES

J. A. Blair, ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Voting Members Present:

Marvin Schutt, Acting Chairman for Arthur Carlson
Ruth Reluga
Thomas Kalal
Penny Heller (Alternate)
Ron Nichols (Alternate)

Members Absent:

Arthur Carlson
Mark Christensen
(arrived 6:30 P.M.)

Selectman Ex-Officio

Selectman Rose Ann Hardy
(arrived 6:45 P.M.)

Planning Director

Gary Goeschel
Absent

Others Attending

Steve Harney

I. Call to Order

Sec'y Marvin Schutt called the 9/14/10 Regular Meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

II. Additions to the Agenda

MOTION (1)

Mr. Kalal moved and Mrs. Reluga seconded that the following subjects be added to the Agenda: (a) Tree Identification
(b) Website

A brief incomplete discussion was held on these subjects which were discussed at previous meetings. They will be reintroduced at the next meeting. Motion passed (5-0-0)

III. Public Delegations

There were none.

IV. Approval of Minutes

July 8, 2010 Special Workshop Meeting and Executive Session

July 13, 2010 Regular Meeting
August 10, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION (2)

Mrs. Reluga moved that the Minutes listed above be approved, seconded by Mr. Kalal. Mr. Schutt requested that for the July 8, 2010 Meeting add that Motion (1) was seconded by Mr. Schutt.
Motion passed (4-0-1)

V. Old Business

A. East Lyme Agricultural Issues
Please refer to Exhibit A attached to these Minutes

B. Status E-Mail List
Mr. Schutt stated he will consolidate the lists obtained by the next Meeting.

C. Rapid Bio-Assessment/Plans For
Mrs. Reluga reported her preparations for a sampling project similar to that done last year will be completed and that the actual sampling will be done by the volunteers who have signed up, on Saturday 9/18/2010.

D. Nature of East Lyme Programs
Mr. Schutt reported that Mr. Carlson has been working with the Planning Director Gary Goeschel to determine what easements already exist which would allow foot paths.

E. Open Space Plan and Community Survey
The content of the survey will be discussed at the next Meeting after the Commissioners completed their reading of the survey.

VI. New Business

A. Funding and Bond Issues for Open Space
A very brief introductory session was held regarding the need for having funding available immediately for purchase or use of open space.

B. Niantic River Conservation and Water Quality
Mrs. Reluga stated her reason for introducing this Agenda Item. Mr. Schutt stated there has been a comprehensive study made of the Niantic River Watershed and there is an Advisory Committee working on a Plan for Corrective Action. Since Mr. Schutt serves on this Committee he agreed to keep our Commission informed of the Committee's progress. He also stated our Commission should not duplicate the work being done by the Advisory Committee.

VII. Chairman's Report

There was no Report because the Chairman was absent.

VIII. Selectman Ex-Officio Report

Selectman Rose Ann Hardy informed the Commissioners of the proceedings for the proposed purchase of the "Gas Station" and its adjoining property. This prompted discussion about what the Commission's involvement should be and there were mixed reactions. Further discussion ensued until Mr. Schutt suggested that the Commissioners should attend the information sessions on the "Gas Station", make up their own mind on the issue, and not speak for the Commission.

IX. Executive Session

There was no reason for an Executive Session at this time.

X. Adjournment

MOTION (3)

Mrs. Reluga moved that the Meeting be adjourned at 7:30 P.M., Mr. Nichols seconded the Motion.

Motion passed (5-0-0)

Note: Mrs. Reluga and Mr. Kalal requested that future Meetings of the Commission, excluding Executive Sessions be taped. Mr. Schutt acknowledged this request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marvin Schutt
Secretary

Open Farm Day July 18, 2010

The East Lyme Agri-business committee of Economic Development held "Open Farm Day" this past Sunday.

The event exceeded any of the contributor's expectations, with approx 400 visitors at the 4 East Lyme Farms.

Christensen Family Farm gave 55 pony rides, keeping 3 ponies busy for the afternoon. Mr. Christensen gave guided tours of the Christmas tree groves. The nesting Mallard Ducks under the evergreen provided endless excitement for the young and the old. The photo op's provided by the sheep and goats were priceless. The views over the valley were stunning.

Hay wagon rides were the hit at Cranberry Meadow Farm. East Lyme Selectman Hogan was the honorary tractor driver of the day. Hugely popular was the hand feeding of the calves. Many local citizens comment that they had never been this far North in town and were enchanted by its beauty.

Queensway Equestrian Center provided a glimpse of the elite "hunter jumper" world. Visitors were allowed to tour the stables and the equestrian riding rings.

The last farm on the tour was Old Orchard Farm... Visitors were able to walk the orchards, see the cider pressing facilities, view the community gardens, and honey bee apairies. Owner Mary Foster happily sold out of homemade pies that day, as well as making many new customers.