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**EAST LYME COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
REGULAR MEETING**

EAST LYME TOWN HALL, 108 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
NOVEMBER 9, 2010, 6:00 P.M.

*Esther B. Williams*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Voting Members Present:**

Arthur Carlson  
Marvin Schutt  
Ruth Reluga  
Penny Heller (Alt.)  
Ron Nichols (Alt.)

**Members Absent:**

Mark Christensen (Arrived at 6:07 P.M.)  
Thomas Kalal (Arrived 6:41 P.M.)

**Selectman Ex-Officio**

Rose Ann Hardy (Absent/Personal)

**Planning Director**

Gary Goeschel (Absent/Conflict)

**Others Attending:**

Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Rd., Niantic, CT  
Robert Gadbois, 368 Boston Post Rd., East Lyme, CT

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Arthur Carlson called the November 9, 2010 Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

**II. Additions to the Agenda**

**MOTION (1)**

Mrs. Reluga moved and Mrs. Heller seconded that the following subjects be added to the Agenda.

1. Method of conducting the Meeting
2. Detailed Minutes

Vote: (5-0-0). Motion passed.

**III. Public Delegations**

Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Rd., Niantic, CT stated she supports adding Conduct of Meeting to the Agenda.

Robert Gadbois, 368 Boston Post Rd., East Lyme, CT stated

**IV. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting 10/12/10**

**MOTION (2)**

Mr. Nichols moved and Mrs. Heller seconded the Motion to approve the Minutes.

Discussion: Comments were made that there were not sufficient details in the Minutes. Mr. Schutt responded by saying he followed the rules for the minimum information required.

Vote: (4-1-0). Motion passed.

## V. Old Business

### A. East Lyme Ag issues.

Mr. Christensen reported that there will be a Horse Distance Ride in October 2011. He added that the subcommittee will be organizing an effort to clear some trails in Nehantic State Forest and on some other shorter trails.

B. Mr. Schutt presented the consolidated List of Supporters which was circulated for everyone to see. He added that there were several blanks that needed to be filled in and hoped Commission members and/or others might split up the list and make the contacts necessary to fill in the blanks. The Commissioners commented that that should not be done because people may not want to have their email address in a distribution list for informing supporters as planned.

### C. Rapid Bio-Assessment/Results, Future Plans-Report

Mrs. Reluga stated that the results of the recent sampling effort are in the mail. A verbal report was given at the meeting by Mrs. Reluga. She also stated the Team did a "fabulous job". *Please Attachment (A)*

### D. Nature of East Lyme Program

#### i. Footpaths

Mr. Carlson stated that he consulted with a DEP Park Ranger who has authority for trails construction and use in Nehantic State Forest. They have agreed to continue discussion on the establishment of a footpath system. They have agreed to work towards establishing marked trails in the Nehantic State Forest which would be part of a more extensive town-wide system.

#### ii. Bird Census

Mr. Schutt reported that he had talked with Bruce Dasinger to determine the progress he had made and learned that he had talked with an expert on the subject who knew of a full fledged effort to perform a bird census in the State. He will make contact with the organizers of this census to get details. He stated that this would be a major effort.

#### iii. Tree Identification

Mr. Carlson reported that we will be using the trees identified by the East Lyme Town Tree Committee as a data source. This work is being done under a FEMA Grant. Trees are identified and located with a GPS System.

iv. Invasive Species

Mrs. Heller submitted colored photographs and information on invasive species which received a very favorable reaction and prompted discussion of how to promulgate this information to the public.

E. Turf Questions

Mr. Carlson reported that due to time constraints, he verbally contacted the Turf Subcommittee and got back from them the information regarding the water quality of the storm water runoff. This information was distributed to the Commission. A second request for additional information regarding the potential use of natural turf was made.

**MOTION (3)**

Mr. Nichols moved and Mrs. Heller seconded the motion that Mr. Carlson ask the Board of Education for all the information evaluating natural turf fields, such as Tall Fescue or other “low nitrogen consuming” grasses. Also, did the Board of Education investigate “best management practices” for fertilizer application in their comparison of natural and artificial fields?

Vote: (3-0-2). Motion passed.

Again, due to time constraints, Mr. Carlson will verbally contact the Subcommittee and gather said information.

**VI. New Business**

A. Niantic River Conservation and Water Quality

Mr. Schutt mentioned that the committee working on rejuvenating the environment in the Niantic River is collecting sample results. This brought to mind that the good work done by Mrs. Reluga’s Sampling Team should be included in this consolidation. Mrs. Reluga responded that the DEP has the sampling results done by her Team.

B. 2011 Schedule of Regular Meetings

**MOTION (4)**

Mr. Nichols moved and Mrs. Reluga seconded the motion to adopt the proposed Schedule for Meetings supplemented by the starting time of 7:00 P.M.

Vote: (5-0-0). Motion passed.

C. Conduct of Meeting

It was proposed that a tape recorder be used at meetings and that there be more details included in the Minutes. Mr. Carlson stated that he and Mr. Schutt will discuss these ideas and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

**MOTION (5)**

Mrs. Reluga moved and Mrs. Heller seconded the motion to use a tape recorder at meetings.

Vote: (3-1-1) Motion passed.

**VII. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Carlson referred to a newspaper article published in the Day the week of November 1, 2010 entitled "Miller Pond Watershed Protection Considered" regarding the proposal of a new reservoir in Waterford and the precautions Waterford would take regarding protection of the drinking water supply. These are the same kinds of protection plans we have advocated.

**VIII. Executive Session**

A. Open Space Acquisitions

**MOTION (6)**

Motion was made by Mrs. Reluga and seconded by Mr. Nichols to go into Executive Session at 9:46 P.M.

Vote: (5-0-0). Motion passed.

Discussion took place and it was decided a motion would be made after the close of the Executive Session.

**MOTION (7)**

Mr. Nichols moved and Mrs. Heller seconded a motion to close the Executive Session at 9:59 P.M.

Vote: (5-0-0). Motion passed.

**MOTION (8)**

Mr. Nichols moved and Mrs. Heller seconded the motion that we recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Town of East Lyme purchase the property discussed in the Executive Session.

Vote: (5-0-0). Motion passed.

**MOTION (9)**

Motion made by Mr. Nichols and seconded by Mrs. Reluga that the Regular Meeting be adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Vote: (5-0-0). Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Schutt  
Secretary

Report

East Lyme's Bioassessment of Wadeable Waters

September 19, 2010

Thirteen RBV volunteers participating were:

Cassandra Shanklin, Jillian Baker, Laura DiRoberts

Dave Higgins, Nancy Kobrin

Joan Smith

Tom Kalal

Mark Christensen and son, William

Ernie Puzzuto and daughter, Mary

Ruth and Chuck Reluga

Locations tested:

1. Pattagansett River at 6 Brook Street
2. Lattimer's Brook behind St. Mathias Church
3. Cranberry Meadow Brook at Aces High RV Park (opposite Walnut Hill Rd. and just before St. Mathias Church)
4. Four Mile River at Spring Rock Road

This second annual meeting, conducted by Mike Beauchene, CT DEP, was held at East Lyme Police Station, Main Street, Niantic beginning at 8:30 a.m.. A most instructive new Power Point lecture was presented explaining the reasons behind the testing and the process.

At 11 a.m., the group dispersed to the above testing sites where an extensive collection of 'riffle-dwelling benthic macro-invertebrates' was gathered for Mike to take back to the lab and verify. Our group earned Mike's praise for their seriousness and efficiency. The experience and enthusiasm of the teams was evident.

The DEP's final 2010 report on RBV testing will be out at the end of the year and available on line.

Listed below are the results for our four sites as reported by Mike:

Fourmile River had:

5a,8a,9,10,11,13b,14,and riffle beetles. Others were Hagenius a sensitive dragonfly, Helicopsyche a sensitive caddisfly, and psilotreta a very sensitive caddisfly.

Latimer had:

2,5a,7,9,10,11,12,13b,14, and crane fly, riffle beetle, and small minnow mayfly

Cranberry Meadow Brook had:

2,4,5a,6a,7,9,10,11,12,13b,14,15f, crane fly, and water snipe fly

Pattagansett River had:

10,11,12,13b,14, 15a, crane fly, riffle beetle, small minnow mayfly, and freshwater clam.

This translates as: numbers 1-8b, are most desirable; 9-14, are moderately desirable; 15a-15g, are least desirable and all else collected falls into the category of Others. All streams, save the Pattagansett, have good water quality. Four Mile River has 2 most desirable and 5 moderate, classifying it as Very Good. Latimer's Brook has 3 most desirable, 6 moderate, 1 least desirable, making it Excellent. Cranberry Meadow has 5 most desirable, and 6 moderate which is Exceptional. Pattagansett has none of the most desirable and 6 moderate which does not meet the water quality standard.

However, Mike indicated, "we would not list Pattagansett as impaired based on the RBV data. It is in-line with prior sampling we have done at that site which I believe indicated impaired macroinvertebrate community. The RBV method works best at determining high quality and not so good at impairment."

These numbers are very similar to last years with the exception of the Pattagansett. The slight shifts in category, according to Mike, of "...a few organisms one way or the other is not a big deal. There is natural variability in communities....an event the professionals have to deal with when looking for changes." He added, "The other big issue is experience and seriousness of the teams that you send out.... For the most part with a solid good faith effort, flux by a couple, would be normal.... Don't pay too much attention to the boundaries, for example, a site with 3 most wanted may actually be better than a site with 4 or 5. RBV is not a total community analysis but a few key critters to help lay people get a good idea of the condition of their streams."

In answer to my question about how many years do we test to see a pattern, he said, "There is no good answer for how long? 2-4 years should start to give you confidence about where your sites fall out."

I plan to continue the program for the CNRC next year and to sign up for the same weekend in September. It has worked well for us these past two years. I also suggest that the commission continue to monitor similar programs in town and support their efforts in testing and application of findings.

Ruth Reluga