

MINUTES OF THE OLD LYME CONSERVATION COMMISSION
In Person Location: Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall, American Legion Room
REGULAR MEETING, Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:30 PM

REMINDER: OLCC members unable to attend a scheduled meeting are asked to notify G. Ryan via e-mail at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

6:35 PM Meeting Called to Order – Chair B. Campbell

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Chair B. Campbell, Members G. Ryan, G. Gregory, T. Sherer, M. Longfellow, N. Kabel

Members Absent: None

Members Absent Without Notifying: None

Guests: D. Shriver and R. Shriver

There was a quorum.

VOTE to accept the MINUTES of the November 4, 2025, regular meeting. Motion by G. Gregory. Seconded by G. Ryan. Accepted unanimously.

VOTE to accept the AGENDA for the January 6, 2026, regular meeting. Motion by G. Gregory. Seconded by B. Campbell. Accepted unanimously.

EARLIER BUSINESS:

STATUS REPORTS:

Connecticut River Watershed Seminars – Guests: Dick Shriver, Publisher, Estuary Magazine, and Rich Shriver, Board member of The Watershed Fund – First CT River Watershed Seminar: Water Quality, 6:00 pm, Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Dr. Andrew Fisk, Northeast Regional Director, American Rivers, will deliver the first quarterly seminar as a Zoom presentation.

Advertising of the Connecticut River Watershed Seminar series has been successful. 180 persons are registered for this first seminar. The seminar will be for 40 minutes with a 20 minute Q&A.

Seminars will be moderated by Rich Shriver, a member of the board of The Watershed Fund.

OLCC will use the American Legion Room for the first seminar which will be a Zoom presentation.

The next seminar will be a Zoom presentation on Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00, when Jillian Liner, Director of Conservation with Audubon VT will speak about Avian Habitats within the watershed. The Zoom presentation will be held in the Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library.

Status of OLCC Approved Mission Statement – Awaiting responses from other commissions and agencies - G. Ryan.

On Monday, December 15, 2025, G. Ryan and B. Campbell presented the OLCC proposed mission statement to the Old Lyme Board of Selectmen for review, acceptance and approval.

On Saturday, December 20, 2025, G. Ryan submitted the OLCC proposed mission statement to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Old Lyme Land Trust, Open Space Commission, Planning Commission, and Zoning Commission for comments and questions.

As of January 6, 2026, only the Zoning Commission has responded.

Conservation Commission and Open Space Commission Beaver Seminar – B. Campbell sent a Thank You note to Beaver Naturalist speaker Ginny Apple on January 2, 2026.

Paul Colburn Wildlife Lecture Series – B. Campbell sent a Thank You note to certified Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC) speaker Paul Colburn on January 2, 2026 for his wildlife lecture series in 2025.

VOTE: Reimburse Paul Colburn for travel expenses to/from Old Lyme for three lectures in 2025 – G. Gregory. Motion by G. Gregory. Seconded by B. Campbell. Accepted unanimously.

Status of Issues Associated with 308-1 Mile Creek Road – Old Lyme Wetlands Violations – G. Ryan G. Ryan provided an overview of the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission (IWWC) meetings on the progress of litigation. (Refer to the Minutes of the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission, October 28, 2025 and November 25, 2025).

Karen Taylor, Lyme-Old Lyme High School Advisor for the ECOS Club (Environmental Conservation Organization) - G. Ryan coordinated with Karen Taylor on attending an OLCC Meeting and discussing partnership with ECOS Club on projects and OLCC membership. Karen Taylor had to decline OLCC membership because of other conservation related commitments. OLCC will continue to send her OLCC agendas and meeting minutes.

Planned/Scheduled/Proposed Speakers on Environmental Issues – Looking Forward to 2026

OLCC is looking at some potential speakers for the Spring of 2026.

NOTE 1: OLCC needs to plan at least three months in advance for all scheduled presentations for advertising purposes.

NOTE 2: Unless otherwise noted, all presentations will be given in the Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library at 6:30 PM.

OLCC will use the Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library for all speakers and presentations to aid them in support of their outreach mission.

NEW BUSINESS:

The following dates have been agreed to and coordinated with the town for the Old Lyme Conservation Commission Regular Meetings in 2026 to be held the first Tuesday of each month (except July) in the Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall, American Legion Room, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. They were confirmed by co-chairs Matt McKenzie and Brandy Campbell in October 2025.

6 January – 3 February – 3 March – 7 April – 5 May – 2 June – **None in July** – 4 August – 1 September – 6 October – 3 November – 1 December

Summary of Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference (CACIWC) – G. Gregory and G. Ryan attended on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at The Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell, CT – Presentations included Inland Wetlands Law; Implementation of Connecticut's Wildlife Action Plan; and, Riparian tree canopy density as a key indicator of water quality. The next annual CACIWC conference will be held on November 14, 2026.

All OLCC and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission members are encouraged to attend. CACIWC promotes the statutory responsibilities of Connecticut Conservation and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commissions and fosters environmental quality through education and the conservation and protection of wetlands and other natural resources.

(Refer to CACIWC Post Conference Review on CACIWC Annual Meeting 2025 website)

Amtrak Bridge Project Update – November 14, 2025 – G. Ryan OLCC members were provided a copy of the latest update. (Refer to AMTRAK CT River Bridge Project Update – October 15, 2025, web site posted on October 16, 2025, 12:15 PM)

OLCC Recruitment – OLCC has three alternate member vacancies and one regular member vacancy as a result of resignations and terms ending January 31, 2026. OLCC is looking for energetic go-getters who genuinely believe in conservation and will actively participate – G. Ryan

Save the Sound Project: Restoring Long Island Sound eel grass meadows – G. Ryan will contact Save the Sound, Long Island Soundkeeper Bill Lucey, to determine if we can obtain a speaker to discuss with/inform us about their next goal to drop 40,000 clams near Duck Island off the coast of Westbrook, Connecticut. G. Ryan proposed OLCC volunteers join Save the Sound in this effort to restore eel grass near Duck Island. All OLCC members concurred. (Refer to “The Grass is Greener Underwater” Article, dated August 8, 2025, on Save the Sound’s website)

OLCC 2026-2027 Budget – B. Campbell, G. Gregory and G. Ryan reviewed the 2025-2026 budget and, after careful review, submitted changes with explanations to the 2026-2027 budget to Anita Mancini, Town of Old Lyme Finance Director. The Board of Selectmen will hold budget reviews during the next two weeks.

VOTE to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:37PM. Motion by G. Gregory. Seconded by B. Campbell. Accepted unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting will be a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM.