

MINUTES OF OLD LYME CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING In Person

Location: Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall -- Mezzanine Room

September 5 2023

6:30 PM

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Vice Chair G Ryan.

2. Attendance

Members M Longfellow, T Russell, T Sherer, N Kabel, Vice Chair G Ryan

Guest: S Thompson, OLCC ex officio member from CT River Gateway Commission

Members absent - H Lyman, G Gregory, Rachel Patten

Clerk: M Plumleigh

3. G Ryan proposed that members present accept the Corrected Minutes of the August 1, 2023 meeting, with changes. T Sherer seconded; all members voted to approve.

4. Old Business:

At the Board of Selectmen's Meeting on September 5, the following OLCC member appointments were approved:

Gary Gregory - from Alternate to Regular member and OLCC Chair - term ending 31 January 2026

Rachel Patten - Alternate member - term ending 31 January 2024

Suzanne Thompson - Ex officio member (Connecticut River Gateway Commission Chair and Old Lyme Representative)

Tom Sherer and George Ryan presented themselves to the Town Clerk to be duly sworn in as OLCC members.

Anthony Daniels and Madalyne Longfellow have yet to do this.

Nix the Knotweed group's work was reported by S Thompson. In four years of effort, there is significant success in staving off growth and re-growth of the plants. An example is property at rear of R.T. Peterson Center, Lyme Street (the former Bee and Thistle Inn). Plus, in order to properly dispose of the cut foliage, the group is working with an Old Saybrook business, Blue Sky, which is developing bio-char, a type of fuel from disposed natural materials. This diverts invasive plants out of the waste stream into a usable resource. She encourages OLCC's participation in these collaborative efforts. The knotweed summer season work is concluded, and efforts to eliminate another invasive, multiflora rosa, will resume in the spring.

She also invited those interested to learn more from the CT Invasive Plant Working Group.

<https://cipwg.uconn.edu>. CIPWG General Meeting: October 11, 10 am – 12 pm, Tolland County

Extension Center at 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon. Speaker Will Hessert, BluSky Biochar

blusky.io/about-us/ ctexaminer.com/2022/05/12/old-saybrook-partners-launch-carbon-capture-startup/

Waterscaping question from N Kabel at August meeting is that resource is found on the Rogers Lake West Shores Association website under Lake Health:https://www.rogerslakewestshores.com/lake_health

Approved by unanimous vote and referred to the October meeting are:

Budget submission for Old Lyme Conservation Commission—Due November 1, 2023 - G Gregory

Logo proposals for proposed Old Lyme Conservation Commission banner - G Gregory

5. New Business:

T Sherer will draft a letter of support from the OLCC to the Old Lyme Land Trust in response to their request for support in acquiring a land parcel, located at 188 Four Mile River Road, from David and Mary Eklund.

6. Outreach and Education:

G Ryan is coordinating with Tom Meyer, Facilities Manager/IT Coordinator, to resolve a computer issue on accessing OLCC e-mails.

On August 16, 2023, state and federal legislators, federal agencies, and stewards of the Connecticut River met in Chester to educate the public about testing and remediation of invasive aquatic species in the Connecticut River, focusing on hydrilla, a highly problematic invasive rapidly spreading throughout the lower CT River Valley.

OLCC supports the Connecticut River Conservancy's efforts in the remediation of invasive species in the Connecticut River. G Ryan will coordinate with the Connecticut River Conservancy to determine if there is information that the OLCC can obtain or involvement to assist in this effort.

Approved by unanimous vote and deferred to the October meeting because Gary Gregory was unable to make the September meeting are:

- Budget submission for Old Lyme Conservation Commission – Due November 1, 2023 - G Gregory
- Logo proposals for proposed Old Lyme Conservation Commission banner - G Gregory
- Deep River Public Library Presentation: The Secret Lives of Owls, August 21, 2023 - G Gregory
- Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission (CACWIC) - G Gregory
- Posting updates and information on Old Lyme Town website for Old Lyme Conservation Commission – G Gregory

Recruiting new members: OLCC will collaborate with LOL High School students in need of a senior project and will arrange a discussion with new Science Teacher.

6. M Longfellow enquired if town of OL has wide-spread communication plans in the case of a large disruptive event, such as flood. S Thompson referred to the work of CT River Conservancy, which has contingency plans and also needs volunteers.

7. N Kabel enquired if OLCC has accepted advice or involvement after presentation to OLCC by Michael Aurelia of OL Open Space at OLCC meeting of June 6. Excepted from minutes of that meeting: *Vernal Pools – Guest M Aurelia spoke about vernal pools and brought up that it is the commission's duty to monitor information on them. He also brought up the work that the Open Space Commission is doing with their E-Bird hotspots. .*

There was no response regarding vernal pools, and question was referred to October meeting.

8. G Ryan requested that OLCC members provide information and contact for items of interest and possible action by OLCC.

9. Members voted in favor of Adjourning at 7:30 PM.

Next meeting October 3, 2023.