



Long Island Sound Study

A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

MEETING SUMMARY FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION (PIE) WORK GROUP

MARCH 18, 2016 by teleconference and webinar

Attendance:

James Ammerman, NEIWPC
Andrew Benson, The Nature Conservancy (CT)
Leanne Bloom, Save the Sound (NY)/Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Robert Burg, NEIWPC
Kate Cubina, Mystic Aquarium
Kara Jackson, The Nature Conservancy (NY)
Dave Kozak, CTDEEP
Amy Mandelbaum, NY Sea Grant
Mark Parker, CTDEEP
Judy Preston, CT Sea Grant
Harry Yamalis, CTDEEP

The call started a few minutes after 10:30. Amy Mandelbaum welcomed the group to its first meeting and then introduced the LISS Communications Team members (Amy, NY Sea Grant; Judy; CT Sea Grant, and Robert; NEIWPC). She explained that the PIE work group was initiated by the Management Committee as a means for the Communications Team to work with the other LISS's work groups to help them communicate the Implementation Actions in the new LISS Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. She added that the Communications Team decided to also include the interests of those represented on the CAC as well.

PIE members then introduced themselves, and described their Long Island Sound activities. Most of the PIE members who work in communications noted that in addition to other LIS-related responsibilities they played a role in communicating their organizations activities through social media.

Next, Robert started the discussion about Stewardship Trails Day, describing LISS's interest in continuing a project started in 2011 by the Communications Work Group and Stewardship Initiative Work Group to promote and organize trails day events at LIS stewardship areas as part of National Trails Day weekend and CT Trails Day weekend. Robert said that he will soon be developing a Trails Day LISS web page



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posting the LIS events (for the June 4-5 weekend) and encouraged PIE members to contribute to the page. Judy said she will be organizing a walk in the Turtle Creek area, a place she described as a “small gem,” in the lower Connecticut River Stewardship area. Kate Cubina said that she will look into organizing an event near the Mystic Aquarium, and asked for suggestions. Dave suggested Bluff Point State Park or Barn Island Wildlife Management area. Judy said that she could also help Katy connect with Land Trusts in the area to hold walks on their properties. Kara noted that the TNC doesn’t have land holdings in New York, but will check with her partners to see if there are any opportunities for events. Robert also wondered if a hike can be held at the recently protected Preserve site in the Connecticut River area.

After the trails day discussion, Robert discussed a signage program proposal for Stewardship Areas that the Communications Team is interested in working on with the Habitat and Stewardship work group. The proposal is to create a “Welcome to Long Island Sound Stewardship Area sign” with a link to the LISS on-line Stewardship Atlas so the public can learn why these sites were selected as Stewardship Areas. Robert said that the Communications Team will be looking for a couple of pilot Stewardship sites to test the signs this summer.

Next, Judy Preston gave an overview of the CCMP Implementation Actions related to communications and outreach efforts, including those in the Sustainable and Resilient Communities (theme 3) section. She suggested that the PIE work group could be an ideal forum to collaborate and bring resources together to work on some of these actions.

The meeting concluded with Amy saying that the presentation will be shared via email to all PIE members. She asked members to consider how their organization fits in with the new work group and come up with ideas for the next webinar, which is scheduled for June 10 at 10:30.

The meeting ended around 11:30.

<http://longislandsoundstudy.net/issues-actions/stewardship/stewardship-areas-atlas/>

http://longislandsoundstudy.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CCMP_LowRes_Hyperlink_Themes.pdf