

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

February 2, 2010  
Adopted March 2, 2010

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at 7:06 PM at the River House. Cynthia Matthew being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Cynthia Matthew, Sue Merrow, Peggy Carlson, Todd Gelston and Pat Thomas. Others present: Rob Smith.

2. Approval of Agenda

Date is Feb. 2, 2010 not 2009

P. Harris is P. Thomas on iv. School Program

Pant should be Plant and Bird under vi.

Motion by Ms. Merrow to approve the agenda as modified. Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes for 1/14/10

Fix tense on the last sentence under 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of 4.a.i.

Added 'as' to the last paragraph under 4.a.i.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved. Ms. Merrow abstained.

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee Updates:

i. Forest Management – T Gelston

The subcommittee proposed inventorying several parcels and sent letters to forestry schools in the Northeast. Five responses were received. Prices range from \$12-\$30 per hour. All want to spend the summer working; there are further discussions underway around part-time work. The inventory will cost some money, but is a worthwhile investment.

The committee put together a proposal and will present it to the Board of Selectmen on 2/3. Mr. Gelston reviewed the proposal with the group for further input and suggestions.

Motion by Ms. Carlson to support the recommendations for forest management and approves the presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Second by Ms. Thomas and unanimously approved.

ii. Boundary Marking – TJ Tarbox

Tabled to next meeting.

- iii. Community Outreach – P Stuhlman  
Tabled to next meeting.

- iv. School Program – P. Thomas

At the recent Environmental Roundtable, the Vo-Ag teacher was joined by two students. The students discussed what they planned to do and their interest. Ms. Thomas talked with Ms. Pease (the Vo-Ag teacher) after the meeting. Mr. Ventres is providing a map of the Nichols property. The grant reward will be provided at end of year for use next year.

- v. Prioritization – C Matthew

Some progress has been made, but no further updates.

- vi. Plant and Bird Inventory – P Carlson and N MacKinnon

Ms. Carlson has asked Greg Chasko, the new EHLT Board member, to be part of the inventory scheduled in May. He has agreed.

Ms. Thomas brought in the Colchester newspaper in which a Wildlife Watch program was discussed. The program involves families looking at what wildlife is in their yards and accumulating that data on a common website so the community knows what wildlife is within the area. Ms. Thomas will look into the program to get further information. Mr. Gelston noted that it is an excellent way to involve the community.

- b. 2010/2011 budget discussion – C Matthew

Ms. Matthew has requested the CC members think about budgetary needs for each committee for the following year and provide the minimum and ideal amounts needed.

- c. Easement agreement

Ms. Matthew received an email regarding the easement agreement previously submitted. To recap, the easement is for a 25 feet long and 5 feet wide section across private land to connect the Jezek Preserve with the Sabine property. Mr. Smith also provided a copy of the easement used by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. Mr. Ventres provided a copy of the CFPA easement from the Town Attorney for his review as well. Ms. Matthew asked if the CC wanted to review and provide further information and/or recommendations to the Town regarding a standard easement agreement or the specific easement before the Town now. Ultimately the easement is with the Town and must be accepted by the town residents at a Town Meeting.

Mr. Gelston indicated that it makes the most sense to use an easement that has stood the test of time, and the easement provided by Mr. Smith for the CFPA has been used on over 1000 properties. Mr. Gelston recommends that the CFPA agreement be the agreement for the easement.

Ms. Matthew will pass along the points made during the meeting, and that the CC supports a process that would promote the landowner and the town working together to come to a joint agreement that all parties find amenable.

## 5. New Business

- a. Plan of Conservation and Development review

Feb. 23, 2010 is the annual PoCD review meeting. The CC has a part in the plan. Ch. 3, Environment section, contains several actions. Regarding the actions:

- The subcommittee has begun to address the action step related to forest management.
- The GIS update action item will be discussed at the review meeting to understand what the intent of the action item is and how the CC could address the action item.
- Under cultural life and recreation area, there are several action items. One related to the slide show prepared in 1977 inventoried views and vistas. The action item is to update the survey/show. Ms. Merrow will follow up with Mr. Ventres to determine if the slide show could be found.
- East Haddam Walking Trails booklet is to be updated to include canoeing and kayaking opportunities. This is already a future consideration.
- Review and report on a linear park along the Moodus River. A linear park goes from point A to point B. The EHLT has taken the lead on this, but there is also town-owned property within the area. One of the ways the CC can be engaged in the future is helping with the grant writing process.
- Horseback riding trail identification is another action item. A possible action item is to form a subcommittee to identifying trail opportunities.
- Gravel road review is another action item. The CC will hear the updates and recommendations from the P&Z.
- The issue of abandoned roads is another action item. Mr. Smith suggested reaching out to CRERPA and CFPA to determine possible action items to address this item.
- A cultural life and recreation recommendation exists for the CC, in conjunction with other boards, to make provisions for passive recreation opportunities on town-owned properties. Ms. Matthew noted that this is what the CC has been working on for the past few years and will provide an update at the meeting.

b. IWWC ordinance change regarding CC member seat

Mr. Gelston indicated that he felt that it made good sense to have a CC member sitting on IWWCC. To have someone from the CC helps to balance and stabilize the IWWCC decisions over time. The problem is that there is no CC volunteer who can sit on IWWCC.

Ms. Matthew will ask for further clarification regarding how the town ordinance came into being related to the state statute.

c. Proposed 25-lot subdivision

The CC was contacted in advance of a subdivision application which has been submitted for a 25-lot subdivision on Warner Road (across from AP Gates). Rodney Davis is the submitter. Ms. Matthew asked the group to think about whether or not the CC would like to review the subdivision application and provide comments. The CC is interested in reviewing the information and providing comments.

6. Confirmation of next Regular meeting: March 2, 2010, at 7:00pm at The River House

7. Other discussion

There is a new \$5M funding opportunity now offered by the State.

There is a new town website that will have the capability to have a CC web page with documents.

The website is a content management system allowing for online document sharing and changes.

Changes will be made within a few months.

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The EHLT will host a night walk on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at the Machimoodus State Park.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Merrow to adjourn, second by Ms. Thomas, unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Hawkins  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Attachment C – Model Trail Conservation Easement for the Connecticut Forest & Park Association
- Easement
- IWWC Commission CC Rep email to Cynthia from Jim Ventres
- A Forestry Management Proposal powerpoint presentation