

## **Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission**

September 20, 2013

Adopted October 1, 2013

### 1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Friday, September 20, 2013, at 6:49 PM at the Gelston residence. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

#### a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Marilyn Gleeson, Todd Gelston, Sue Merrow, Paul Sienna.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

Added "Update on East Haddam Public Works Assistance" to the agenda.

Motion by Mr. Smith to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Ms. Merrow and unanimously approved.

### 3. New Business

#### a. Infrastructure for the work plan for the 6 priority parcels

##### i. Work Day Schedules (day and time)

To recap, at the last meeting 6 properties were selected with 66 man hours noted as being needed for work; blazing was noted as 80% of the work. Work day parties are scheduled for 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/23, 12/7, 1/11/14 and 1/25/14, from 1-4pm. The overarching goal is to get out into the open space and enjoy the woods and trails that we have here in East Haddam. Discussion ensued about the man hours needing to be calculated differently – likely will be close to 200 man hours to complete (people X number of hours).

##### ii. Manpower Assignments

Pizzini property – first work party on 9/28. Signs are needed to advertise work parties. Mr. Sienna will call Linda at the Town Hall to get the sandwich boards, and will get them set up advertising the 10/12 work party (since the 9/28 work party is very close). The first work party on 9/28, will be purposely kept small. The goal of the first work party, (9/28), is to develop a cadence and understanding of how things need to be set up to manage additional volunteers. Attendees will be Mr. Sienna and his son, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gelston and Ms. Gleeson. Mr. Smith will see if there are any EHLT members who are interested. Ms. Gleeson volunteered to be developed into a team lead for future work parties.

##### iii. Communications to Volunteers

Ms. Merrow will submit the article announcing the work parties through the Events magazine. This will be released in time for the Nov – Jan work parties. Mr. Smith will notify the EHLT members as well. Ms. Goyette will provide Ms. Gleeson with Cheryl Matthewson's contact info so Ms. Gleeson can notify her of the planned work parties, in case some of her students are interested. Ms. Gleeson will also meet with either the

Principal and/or Superintendent to communicate with those that work with the Town's youth, about the activities. Mr. Gelston also suggested reaching out to the Rotary Club in town (Deb Denette is part of the Rotary Club so can provide a contact name), the Community Lions (contact is Arnold Davis), and the Moodus Sportsmen Club (contact is Jim Ventres). Ms. Gleeson conducted some research online and with Mr. Ventres, who noted that in terms of liability, the individual's insurance would be primary and the Town's would be secondary. Ms. Gleeson provided an example of a waiver, and Mr. Gelston also suggested talking with the Town of Suffield about their waiver and policies.

iv. Safe Work Plan and Requirements

The sub-committee established 5 safety rules:

1. Limit people handling chainsaws. (1 per local work area.) Proper safety gear required (hard hat and chaps).
2. People need to be comfortable with sharp implements (i.e., axe, hatchet).
3. Generally, no children under 14 (may change based on job).
4. Sturdy shoes, preferably work boots.
5. Please use common sense when involved in a work party. Leave electronic devices in the car or at home.

Tools needed are:

- 2" paint brushes (throw away)
- Boundary marking paint (EHLT will order the boundary paint and donate to this work effort).
- Trail and boundary tags (entering and leaving) (Mr. Ventres has the tags and Mr. Gelston will get them)
- Nails (12d galvanized, 5' box)
- Hammers, loppers, pruning saws (volunteers can bring)
- Aprons (Mr. Gelston will see if Shagbark will donate some)

v. Other items as necessary

Parking for the 9/28 work party is located at Patrell (off Baker Lane). Only a heavy downpour will cancel the work party.

b. Forestry Management Plan Update

Mr. Gelston noted that the CC provided permission to bring in a logger to evaluate the next parcel. Mr. Gelston will determine the next property and let the members know at the next meeting.

c. Update on East Haddam Public Works Assistance

Mr. Smith spent 2 hours with the Director of Public Works, reviewing the top priority parcels or other parcels that need continuing work on them. See Attachment for details. Mr. Gelston noted that for the Public Works, the priority needs to be creating parking. The list needs to be prioritized for the CC as well. Mr. Smith suggested the Public Works priority be to address the following properties in this order: Patrell, Hatch Lot, Rose Farm on the Silas Homes side and then Rose Farm on the Rt. 82 side. Mr. Gelston will get 5- 4X6 16' posts for the signs and have Shagbark cut them in 1/2 in the 30 degree angle. Galvanized lag bolts with 1/4" washers are needed; 2 per sign, and 5/16" by 3 is the sizing needed. Mr. Smith will notify the FFA that

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the Nichols trails need to be moved to outside the Transfer Station gate so that people can park and walk the trails after the Transfer Station is closed.

4. Announcements and other discussion

The next meeting of the Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee is October 9 at 6:30pm at the Gelston residence.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Merrow to adjourn at 8:47 pm, second by Mr. Smith, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- East Haddam Conservation Commission EHPW needs
- Volunteers in Plano Waiver