

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT CONSERVATION
COMMISSION MEETING**

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission
September 9, 2014**

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at 7:34 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Marilyn Gleeson, Peggy Carlson, Paul Sienna, Joe Zaid, Sue Merrow, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston. Others in attendance: Anita Ballek – departed 8:40, John Goyette – departed 8:40, Kyle Mosig – departed 7:46, Griffin Shepherd – departed 7:53, Adam Mosig – departed 7:46, Neil, Mosig – departed 7:46, Linda Stuhlman – departed 8:40, Scout Master Tony D’Addio – departed 7:53, Barbara Pokorny – departed 8:40

2. Approval of Agenda

The Scouts update will proceed first, followed by the Harris property update with Linda Stuhman.

Motion by Ms. Gleeson to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 8/5/14

Motion by Mr. Gelston to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee Minutes for 8/13/14

Changed Mr. Smith to Mr. Sienna, who made a motion to close the minutes.
Added a comma to the list of workdays to make the work clearer.

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

5. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee Minutes for 8/27/14

Changed Rathburn to Rathbun.
Changed Beth Lund to Beth Lunt.
Capitalized the A in D’Addio.

Motion by Ms. Merrow to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

6. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry & Stewardship – Mr. Gelston noted, for the sub-committee’s work, approximately 260 volunteer hours were donated to date. Due to the cancellation of the last work party, Mr.

Gelston indicated some of the work must be replanned. The short bridge has been installed on the Hatch Lot. The next piece of work is to address the large bridge. Mr. Smith suggested to Mr. Gelston to call Marvin's when the backhoe needs to be rented to move the boulders for the large bridge. The plan is to move the stones in place, followed by placing the steel beams on the stones and then bolting the beams to the steel beams. Mr. Sienna and Mr. Zaid will discuss cutting the beams and boards so that all the materials can be cut ahead of time. Ms. Gleeson suggested adding one additional item to the priority list - moving the gravel pile at Patrell as it is unsightly.

Volunteer Activism – Nothing to report on the potential Lyme Boy Scout project.

Outreach and Promotions – Ms. Carlson collected \$10.50 for the trail guide and provided it to Ms. Gelston. Ms. Gleeson will coordinate a sub-committee meeting to discuss the work to update the trail guide. Mr. Smith will provide Ms. Gleeson his personal GPS unit for her to use to map the trails. Oct. 18th is the RiverFest at the Hopyard to celebrate the Eightmile River from 1-4pm. There will be exhibits, entertainment, food and other celebratory events. Mr. Smith is looking for CC members to be part of the event.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

P&Z – The Grandview camp resort had its 2nd public hearing. There were a large number of changes made to the plan, and it was approved.

IWWC – There are two large items discussed. There are a number of people applying for permission to install sea walls by the lake residents in town. The commission is denying these requests to protect the lakes. The renovation of Kate Swift's old house (next to the Dodd property) has questions related to the landscape. Mr. Hunt from Shagbark attended to discuss redrawing the Conservation Easement for some of the land in front of Shagbark.

c. Update on open space purchases

There is no update to be provided at this time. There is progress being made to collect the monies for open space purchased in the past.

d. Linear Trail update

No new updates.

e. Trowbridge Road property discussion

Mr. Smith discussed the land request discussed at the prior meeting with Mr. Ventres, and noted the CC will not recommend or approve this type of swap. Mr. Smith noted there may be an option to swap property for equal or greater value, but not as the proposal currently stands. Mr. Smith noted that these 2 pieces of land should have been picked up upon the open space purchase made for the high school, as they are orphaned pieces of land. The owner may come back with a new proposal, which would provide the CC with access to the high school open space that it currently does not have.

7. New Business

a. New bills

Mr. Smith noted the receipt of a Shagbark bill, for \$35.48, to be paid out of the 2014/2015 budget.

Motion by Ms. Merrow to pay the Shagbark bill, seconded by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

b. Harris property municipal space discussion – Linda Stuhlman

Ms. Stuhlman attended to discuss the Harris property and its use of municipal space. She provided a very comprehensive timeline showing the progression of the proposed use of the Harris municipal property space. The Agricultural Commission began a project to use the property for agricultural purpose. The State and Town supports this type of work, however, it must be done correctly. A STEAP grant was discussed on July 23, 2012, and then was submitted to the State on July 24, 2012, with no associated business plan. The grant was approved; the Selectmen's office and the Ag Commission were to manage the project. There were work parties underway from 2012 to 2013, with land being cleared. The Ag Commission was not kept in the loop on this work, as Jessica Stone and Scot Mackinnon were working directly with the Selectmen on the project. A year after the grant is submitted and received; there is a town vote to apply for the grant. The town vote was approved, but there was only reference to the use of the land for agricultural use. With a month, issues arose as discussions about a commercial kitchen came to light. The Ag Commission then stepped back into the process, but ran into issues with connecting with the Selectmen's Office. The bottom line is there was very little communication to Town residents about the full use of the land, which grew from community gardens to a large-scale commercial kitchen that would be used and leased year-round. Ms. Stuhlman noted that the project is a worthy endeavor, but there must be complete transparency within the town. There is another Public Meeting scheduled for Sept 25, at 6:30pm, at the high school auditorium to discuss this work.

ConcernedCitizensofEastHaddam@gmail.com can be emailed to request information on the project.

Ms. Merrow asked if the town residents are starting to understand the project, and Ms. Stuhlman noted that the residents are becoming educated. It is only the 18 acres purchased for municipal use that is in question. The CC does have some responsibility on municipal land, like Nichols, but for the Harris property – the CC only has jurisdiction on the open space until there is a municipal use officially designated for it. Mr. Gelston noted the Concerned Citizens are putting out a concentrated effort to get the word out about the Public Meeting on Sept. 25th.

c. Boy Scout project review and approval

Kyle Mosig provided an update on the plan and cost of building the large kiosk for Hatch Lot. Mr. Gelston noted the plans look good. \$224 is the total costs for 1 kiosk. Mr. Smith noted the size may require 6X6 beams instead of 4X4 beams, which might require the drawings to change. This observation is due to Mr. Smith's professional observation during his time working in the State Parks. Mr. (Kyle) Mosig will build 1 large kiosk. Mr. Gelston noted that the Forestry and Stewardship Sub-committee thought it would be a good idea for the Boy Scouts to conduct a fund raising effort with the CC contributing dollar for dollar.

Adam Mosig provided an update on his plan to build two small kiosks for Rose Farm. Mr. Smith noted that the sign display area may be a little small so may need to be modified. The smaller kiosk can use the 4X4 beams. \$268 is the total cost for both kiosks.

Griffin Shepherd presented an update on the campsite on the Hatch Lot. Ms. Gleeson talked with Mr. Ventres about the pit toilet and learned that there is nothing needed from a permit

perspective. In addition, the Chatham Health District does not need to be contacted. Mr. Shepherd provided a printed overview of his fund raising efforts.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to accept Griffin Shepherd's proposal to construct a primitive campsite on the Hatch Lot, second by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved. Mr. Smith signed the information the needed paperwork for the project.

8. Next meeting – Oct 7, 2014, 7:30, at The River House

9. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith noted that Ms. Gelston is now a regular member, and Mr. Zaid has been approved as an alternate member.

Mr. Smith noted that there is tentative approval by the DEEP to improve the Bashan Lake Dam.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gelston to adjourn at 10:02 pm, second by Mr. Gelston, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Large kiosk plan and cost sheets
- Small kiosk plan and cost sheets
- Fundraising handout from Griffin Shepherd
- Stewardship Work Priority and Schedule
- Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve an Application for Dam Safety Permit and Intent to Waive Public Hearing