

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

December 2, 2014

Adopted January 6, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at 7:31 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Paul Sienna, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston, Marilyn Gleeson, Peggy Carlson, Sue Merrow. Others in attendance: Dan Carbo – departed 9:20, Kyle Mosig – departed 7:50, Adam Mosig – departed 7:50, Tony D’Addeo – departed 8:20, Jon Shea – departed 9:20, Griffin Shepherd – departed 7:50, Patrick Laffan – departed 9:20, Mason Hollis – departed 8:20, Teagan D’Addeo – departed 8:20.

2. Approval of Agenda

Boy Scout updates will be addressed first.

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 11/4/14

5.a. Changed “signs” to “sides” to describe the signs posted on both sides of Rose Farm Homestead.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston reflected on the 2014 stewardship activities. About 217 work hours to date have been worked, which saved about \$10,000 of Town monies as it was all volunteer labor. This time does not include the Boy Scouts’ work, which was significant. Hatch Lot has blue, red, white, purple and green trails installed, as well as a short and long bridge built. The gravel parking lot was also installed at Hatch Lot, suitable for at least a dozen cars and a horse trailer. Three bollards were installed as were signs highlighting the Hatch Lot. The campsite is now completed as well. Rose Farm Homestead has had several trails installed, with a parking lot installed but not graveled. Adequate signage is also installed, and a gate has been placed at the east entrance. Kiosks are in the works. The Ray Chapter of the FFA received a speaking award related to outlining the work done on the Nichols property. Chapel Farm – the pump house is now safer, with gravel piles ready and waiting to be spread. There is much to be done in 2015, which will be addressed at the January meeting. Mr. D’Addeo asked Mr. Gelston to send along the work day schedules so that the Boy Scouts can be kept in the loop. The next sub-committee meeting is at the Gelstons’ residence at 7pm, on Wednesday, 12/10.

Outreach and Promotion: Grand total \$1630 has been collected for the trail guides, and there are essentially none left to sell. Mr. Smith and Ms. Gleeson will go to visit Mr. Ventres to get

the open space maps so a new trail guide can start to get underway. Mr. Gelston suggested that the new trail guide be published by April 2015.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Casner’s application for a sub-division on Warner and AP Gates, which has been noted as open space by P&Z, was discussed. Most of the lot is wetlands, and the water is rich in iron which requires a water filter requiring salt. The way the building is situated would drive 500 lbs of salt into the wetlands given the need for the water filtration system. IWWC did not make a decision, but will make one at the next meeting. The neighbors are very upset about the application not considering a water softener. P&Z has taken the position that the land is open space and should not be built on.

P&Z – 25 Falls Road, building 3 is looking to be converted to a church (was previously a Curves Studio). The Harris property soil report detected no carcinogens.

c. Update on open space purchases

Mr. Smith noted the open space purchases have been moved to the Bond Council by the Board of Selectmen, with possible referendum date late January or early February. Mr. Gelston noted there is an issue as there are a number of people in town who think open space is not a good thing for the town to purchase.

d. Linear Trail update

Eightmile Wild and Scenic Committee has requested a grant to connect the trail from Rt. 82 to East Lyme. There are also opportunities to connect to the Salem River.

e. Trowbridge Road property discussion

Mr. Zaid, Mr. Smith, Mr. Sienna and Mr. Gelston walked the property. There are open questions on the boundaries that need to be determined. There may be access to the back of the school property already, but that must be confirmed. A survey needs to be completed. This will be discussed at the next CC meeting.

f. Disc Golf

Mr. Zaid, Mr. Smith, Mr. Sienna and Mr. Gelston reviewed the Trowbridge road property for a potential Disc Golf course. Mr. Smith noted that it’s likely doable. Mr. Carbo has not had a chance to contact the State. Mr. Gelston asked how much parking is needed; space for a dozen cars is needed. Mr. Gelston also suggested thinking about port-a-potties. Ms. Merrow also suggested asking P&Z if a port-a-potty is needed for this effort. Going before P&Z requires a Public Hearing, so informing the neighbors is a necessity. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Laffan and Mr. Carbo to review other open space properties and determine suitable locations. Mr. Smith suggested Sunrise and Brainard Homestead as good potential sites, although they are State properties. To put the course in, it would cost about \$37,000. Ms. Goyette will send along an email noting the approval of the below motion.

Motion by Ms. Merrow that the CC supports the concept of Disc Golf on appropriate open space in the town of East Haddam, seconded by Mr. Gelston, unanimously approved.

5. New Business

a. New bills

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Shagbark bill for \$239.86 for concrete for bollards and grass seed used at Rose Farm.

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

Shagbark bill \$285.10 and includes the prior \$239.86.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to pay the bill, seconded by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

Renz construction bill for \$2275 for gravel.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to pay the bill, seconded by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.

Ricky Shea for mowing Hatch Lot, Patrell and Boot Rock for \$543.75.

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

- b. Public Comment  
Tabled.

- c. Eagle Scout updates

Kyle Mosig provided his plans for locating and building a 6-foot long roofed information board which will hold a map and necessary signage for the Hatch Lot. The budget is \$224 and the CC will contribute some monies for the work. Mr. Mosig's timeframe is to have the kiosk built prior to the spring, but it does depend on the fund raising efforts. The assembly will be done on site, as it will weigh about 500 to 1000 lbs. Needed labor is already procured with the whole Scout Troop helping out. No building permits are needed. Mr. Smith reviewed the package and signed it, allowing the project to move forward to the BSA district advancement liaison.

Adam Mosig provided his plans for locating and building 2 5-foot kiosks with no roof, to be on each side of Rose Farm Homestead. The budget is about \$330, with Mr. Mosig conducting fund raising; he has a plan for that. Mr. Mosig is hoping to finalize the building by spring as well. Needed labor is already procured with the whole Scout Troop helping out. Mr. Smith reviewed the package and signed, allowing the project to move forward to the BSA district advancement liaison.

Griffin Shepherd completed the campsite on the Hatch Lot, and provided photos of the site, which are included in the minutes. The CC must now develop some rules for using the campsite so that it can be used by the Boy Scouts. 21 Boy Scouts were involved in the building of the campsite. Mr. Smith signed off on the project now that it's completed.

- d. Properties that allow hunting

The EHLT has posted information on hunting on its website to answer questions around hiking during hunting season. Mr. Smith also provided the same information to the CC members as an FYI. The CC is the manager of hunting spaces in East Haddam, so can restrict hunting if needed. Linda in the Selectmen's Office now keeps track of the hunting permits, while Jim Ventres determines how much hunting a property can support.

- 6. Next meeting – Jan. 6, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

The 2015 schedule was reviewed, and there are no changes to be made. Ms. Goyette will submit the schedule to the Town Clerk.

All CC members are asked to review the budget and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. All materials must be included in the budget as the direction from Town officials is that Public Works cannot provide any materials.

Mr. Smith spent quite some time developing two overlay maps that will help when looking at prioritizing lands to be purchased.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gelston to adjourn at 9:43 pm, seconded by Mr. Sienna, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- The Habitat, Fall 2014, volume 26 number 4
- Town of East Haddam Hunting/Trapping Permits 2014-2015 seasons
- 2015 Schedule of meetings
- Photos of Griffin Shepherd's campsite