

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

January 6, 2015

Adopted February 3, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 7:33 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Marilyn Gleeson, Joe Zaid, Peggy Carlson, Paul Sienna, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston.
Others in attendance: Emmett Lyman

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 12/2/14

4.a. Changed trials to trails.

4.f. added below to note where the motion is.

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

4. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee Minutes for 12/2/14

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Last work day was on the Sabine property, and the boundary has been fully marked (except for the area in the lake). The next work party is scheduled for Saturday, 1/10, on the Davison property. There was an act of vandalism reported on the outhouse on the Hatch Lot; it was burned down. Mr. Smith reviewed the site and found that the outhouse was fine, but one of the tables was burned on the end and both tables were marked with graffiti. The burned table can be made shorter as only one end was burned. Mr. Smith has informed Mr. D'Addeo who was going to talk with Griffin Shepherd. Mr. Smith noted that there are a few minor modifications on the outhouse to keep the inside dry from the driving rain. Mr. Smith has not heard if Ray of Light has been able to close on the property. On the Harris property, the trees buried in wood chips have had their bases dug out, and the logger has removed the large pile of wood that has been sitting there for 2 years. There will be a controlled burn in the spring to address the invasives. Mr. Gelston has asked the town to clean up quite a bit of things as the property looks messy right now.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Gleeson is looking into a new mapping software that Margo Burns has recommended. Ms. Gleeson has done quite a bit of mapping so far, and will be able to translate the mapping to any map that has longitude and latitude. There are 4 more properties to be marked. Ms. Gleeson continues to meet with Margo Burns to pull together further information about mapping. Ms. Gleeson is still aiming for an April release. Mr. Zaid's wife is helping provide information regarding costs for printing and folding.

Volunteer Activism: Ms. Merrow provided an article to the Events magazine.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston missed the IWWC meeting last month.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson provided an update. Eddie's Auto Body is adding solar panels. The EDC is requesting P&Z to add regulations around food carts. The EDC is also working very closely with Shagbark to get the issues (handicap bathroom, drainage in the back and the fire code issue) addressed.

c. Update on open space purchases

Nothing new to report.

d. Linear Trail update

For the opening day ceremony, the group would like Dick Goodwin Jr. to attend and that has not been arranged. The bridge plans have not been finalized yet, for the Boot Rock property.

e. Trowbridge Road property discussion

Mr. Smith noted that a survey has not been done yet, but the surveyor has prior surveys that conflict and a third will likely conflict as well. It will likely end up in court no matter what is done with the survey. At this point, the CC vehemently opposes any swap agreements.

Motion by Ms. Gelston that the CC write a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending no swap on the Trowbridge property (M75, L1) and explore if the owners would be interested in selling the property to the town to avoid any additional issues with open space. Second by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

f. Scouting update

No update provided at this time, but there are other Scouts who are interested in doing projects on open space.

6. New Business

a. New bills

Shagbark bill for \$63.97 for stewardship supplies.

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

b. Public Comment

Tabled as no members of the public were present. Ms. Goyette will add this as a permanent section to the minutes going forward.

c. 2015-2016 Budget

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, January 6, 2015

Last year, the budget consisted of:

- Clerical \$1200
- printing \$2500
- supplies \$50
- other supplies \$6500 (stewardship costs)
- dues/fees \$250
- capital \$10,000 (parking lots, other repairs, etc.)
- bridge \$15,000
- purchased items \$1250

Discussion ensued regarding the need to request more monies to address the work that the CC was relying on the Public Works department to address. There is a potential for an underground oil tank and an underground gas tank on Chapal Farm. The 2015-2016 budget will be:

- Clerical \$1500
- purchased items \$1250
- printing \$2500
- supplies \$50
- other supplies \$10,000
- Dues/fees \$400
- Capital \$10,000

Mr. Smith will put the budget together and submit it.

7. Next meeting – Feb. 3, at The River House.
8. Announcements and other discussion
Next Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 1/14, at 7pm at the Gelstons' residence.
Mr. Smith will send a letter stating the CC's support on the Disc golf proposal.
9. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gelston to adjourn at 9:26 pm, seconded by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary