

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

January 29, 2014

Adopted February 4, 2014

### **1. Call to Order**

The Special Meeting of the Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, at 6:35 PM at the Gelston residence. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

#### **a. Roll Call**

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

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

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

### **3. New Business**

#### **a. Plan for Phase II Work**

Phase 1 is about 1/3 over; if the weather improves, that phase can be completed. Mr. Gelston has turned his attention to Phase II as the Cub Scouts are interested in helping. The next work party is Feb 8. Mr. Gelston noted that trail maintenance is of prime importance as there are a large amount of people using the trails that have been newly made. It is important to think about developing a maintenance plan and getting manpower to help out. There are a number of opportunities to build future trails as well continue to mark boundaries (Harris, Roaring Brook, etc.). Mr. Gelston asked the sub-committee to think about Phase II, and provide him any ideas.

#### **b. Participation by the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts – Work and Hiking**

Both Ms. Merrow and Mr. Gelston were in contact with the local Scout Master, who is interested in being involved and can help at the next work party. There are a few concerns about what the Cub Scouts can do, but there is plenty of work that can still be done, like raking, picking up sticks, and creating water breaks in certain areas. Mr. Gelston also noted that plant and bird inventories are sorely needed, and that might be a good thing for them to focus on as well. Mr. Gelston will reach out to his Scout contact and discuss the work options now that the sub-committee has discussed. The members all liked the idea of involving the Scouts. Ms. Merrow also suggested having the Cub Scouts build blue bird houses and managing from building through installing and then maintaining them on a yearly basis. Mr. Smith noted that the DEEP had provided blue bird house building materials; he will contact them and see if they still offer these supplies. The sub-committee also talked about involving the Boy Scouts and discussed the need to understand the criteria for Eagle Scout projects. Mr. Gelston suggested design a trail maintenance plan and schedule as well as handling the maintenance. The sub-committee also talked about the need to be both realistic about what can be done and also the amount of mentoring that must be provided as well. A typical Boy Scout project consists of something that can be seen, like building a bridge, and there is an

opportunity on the Hatch Lot's white trail for a bridge. Mr. Gelston also suggested the Boy Scouts may be able to build benches that can be set at the vistas on Hatch Lot. Ms. Merrow also noted that the Boy Scouts are always looking for places to go for camp outs. Locating and creating a camp site may be a good Eagle Scout project as well. Ms. Merrow also talked about contacting the Girl Scouts as well. She also mentioned the need to create a listing of easy hikes for the Cub Scouts and circulated a list of potential 1-2 mile easy hikes for further ideas. Mr. Gelston will pull together a list of the things the Cub Scouts can do at the next work party.

5. Old Business

a. Update on East Haddam Public Works Assistance

Mr. Smith emailed Mr. Gelston – he walked through Patrell and nothing has been done to address the open pump house. Nothing new to report. Mr. Smith will purchase caution tape and mark the spot to warn people and prevent any injuries.

b. Updated Work Day Schedules and Property Assignments

Mr. Gelston noted that the dates are moving out 2 weeks, so that Phase 1 will end in April now, given the weather issues that we encountered. The plan is to work at both Rose Farm and another location. Mr. Gelston will work with the Scouts at the other location. The 4 tires and a cable still have to be picked up from the Hatch Lot. Mr. Sienna will pick up the debris and remove it. Mr. Gelston noted that Mr. Shea sent in the bill for payment; the bill should be ready for discussion at the next Conservation Committee. Mr. Shea will mow the Hatch Lot parking lot; another bill will be submitted once the work is done.

c. Volunteer Pool

Mr. Gelston noted another volunteer has contacted him to be involved in the next work party. Mr. Smith noted that Ms. Gleeson has spoken to Noah Ventola. He asked Mr. Gelston to send along the work party to Noah Ventola so that he is aware of the work that the CC is doing as well. Ms. Merrow will be adding the need for volunteers in an article for Events magazine.

d. Patches and Vests

Mr. Gelston has received the patches from Mr. Mackinnon and now has both the patches and team captain patches. Mr. Mackinnon still has other patches, and Mr. Gelston will go to Ballek's Garden Center and pick up the rest of them this week. Ms. Merrow suggested writing an article that denotes a certain number of volunteer hours worked earns a patch. Fifteen volunteer hours or participation in 5 work days earns a patch – that denotes a substantial investment of time. Mr. Smith also provided orange CC hats for people.

5. Announcements and other discussion

Given that there are so many telephone poles being replaced, there may be an opportunity to use old ones to demarcate parking lots. Mr. Sienna will reach out to CL&P in East Hampton to see if there is a way to get ahold of old poles for use.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Ventres to talk with the Town Engineer to provide the Eightmile River bridge plans as Mr. Smith may have a contact for steel beams.

6. Adjournment

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Motion by Mr. Smith to adjourn at 8:11 pm, second by Mr. Sienna, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary