

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

February 26, 2014

Adopted March 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, February 26, 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, Paul Sienna, Sue Merrow.

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

Mr. Gelston noted that the next spur of work involves finishing up Phase 1, hopefully prior to June 1. About 1/3 of the Phase 1 work has been completed. Hatch Lot update – parking lot is about ½ way completed, but still needs to be cut. It can hold at least 30 cars. It would be a good idea to mark out the boundaries of the parking lot, but this is part of Phase 2. Overall trail work on Hatch Lot is about 80% done. Ms. Gleeson noted the Economic Development work that is underway; it may be a good idea to keep them apprised of the work that the CC is doing to tie into their planning. There was also discussion around planning for a hostel-type of facility within town, but there is quite a bit of work that must be done on a number of properties to facilitate that type of offering. The sub-committee's planning now needs to turn to Phase 2 and also Cub Scout involvement.

To complete Hatch Lot for Phase 2, there needs to be a connector to go from the end of the blue trail on the east end to go back to the parking lot, keeping off Mill Road. Signs need to be posted as well. Rose Farm is 0% completed. Pizzini may need some additional work. Davison will result in more exposure and use by Cave Hill guests, but no work has been completed thus far. The sub-committee will stick to the Phase 1 plan as it is laid out. Mr. Gelston will set up a meeting with the Selectmen (and Mr. Smith) to discuss the work that is needed by Public Works in support of the CC's work on town-owned open space. Patrell still needs to have the well pump hazard addressed, as well as the old garage drop off addressed. There is money in the budget to address the need for a bridge in Chapel Farm as well. A signage plan needs to be developed for all the properties as well. Harris property trails also need to be connected to the Dean property as well as signs. Also the maps for each trail need to be outlined. Trail Guide needs to be updated as well.

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

Ms. Merrow provided a listing of potential Eagle Scout projects as well as a list of easy hikes for the Cub Scouts to Scout leaders. Ms. Merrow heard back after contacting, and the Scout

leader felt all the ideas for Eagle Scout projects were good ideas. See attachment. There are also a number of Scouts that are looking for service hours. Ms. Merrow will follow up to determine service hours needed and see if there's interest in helping out during the weekends. There is plenty of work to keep the Scouts busy to finish up Phase 1. Mr. Gelston will reach out to the Vo-Ag department to determine if they are still interested in participating.

5. Old Business

a. Update on East Haddam Public Works Assistance

No update to report as no work has been done given the weather.

b. Updated Work Day Schedules and Property Assignments

The next viable work party is now March 22. The members discussed the need for sandwich boards to announce work parties and will need to determine where and how to purchase one. Inventory of species is really needed; that may be a good Eagle Scout project as well. Ms. Merrow also suggested building and installing bluebird houses and bat houses. Ms. Merrow will contact Carol Harrington to see if she has any information on bluebirds on the Patrell and Harris properties.

There was also discussion around picking a property for a mountain biking trail as there may be interest among the town's youth.

c. Volunteer Pool

There may be additional calls in the spring, once the newest Events magazine article is released.

d. Patches and Vests

Ms. Merrow is going to write the next Events magazine article featuring a picture of the patch.

5. Announcements and other discussion

Nothing discussions

6. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Merrow to adjourn at 8:06 pm, second by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Scout projects list