

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

April 9, 2014

Adopted June 3, 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, April 9, 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. Others present: Tony D'Addeo – departed 7:12, Griffin Shepherd – departed 7:12

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Smith to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Mr. Sienna and unanimously approved.

3. New Business

a. Introduction to Eagle Scout and Discussion

Scout Master Tony D'Addeo and Griffin Shepherd joined to talk about the potential of Mr. Shepherd conducting an Eagle Scout project on the Hatch Lot. Mr. D'Addeo noted the needs for a campsite – an area for tents, fire rings/pits, an outhouse and several picnic tables. There was discussion around parking needs. The CC noted that there is not going to be vehicle access, unless an emergency vehicle needs to access the site. Mr. Smith noted there are a number of areas within the property that would work for a campsite. The area with the best view has ledge and can be wet, so would not work for a campsite though due to potential lightning strikes. Clearing, fire ring building and constructing picnic tables are all part of the project. Mr. Gelston inquired if the Boy Scouts had constructed a campsite on empty property; they had about 10 years ago. Mr. Shepherd noted that for Eagle projects, the whole troop is involved in the project. Mr. Shepherd will plan the work and lead the execution of younger scouts after it's been approved. There are a number of approvals that must be acquired. A detailed plan must be submitted to Boy Scouts of America. For materials, either they get donated or fund raising is completed to address purchasing supplies. Mr. Smith noted the CC does have monies so may be able to help purchase supplies. Mr. Gelston noted the general public may use it, and Mr. D'Addeo noted that is not an issue. Mr. Smith noted the next step is to hike the property and find the best area for a campsite. The sub-committee provided a map with the current trails outlined, and Mr. Shepherd will investigate the property for a suitable site. Mr. Shepherd noted that the ideal timeframe would be to complete by August 2014.

Motion by Mr. Sienna to recommend to the Conservation Commission that the Eagle Scout candidate Griffin Shepherd proceed with building a plan to install a campsite on the Hatch Lot, subject to the CC's approval. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

b. Hatch Lot improvements

This year, ½ of the 1000 feet of the blue trail has been raked. There is some tree cutting to be done. Mr. Gelston will let the Cub Scouts know about the April 26 work party so that the rest of the 1000 feet of the blue trail can be raked to completion. A new trail, the red trail, will be blazed on April 26 as it has been marked already. Mr. Smith will try to bring the backpack blower to clear the trail easily. The parking lot has been cleared and mowed. Mr. Smith removed the additional junk found. About 10 vehicles can be parked in there now, and there are plans to rail the lot. A base layer of gravel is needed to drive along as well as some large boulders that need to be removed before the parking lot is fully usable. Mr. Smith has to request a permit to address the parking lot due to wetlands.

c. Other urgent issues

Mr. Gelston noted the trail guide has to be revised as the Hatch Lot, Harris and Dean are not in it. Ms. Gelston may volunteer to create an insert for the trail guide. The formal remake of the Trail Guide would need to be done later in the year. Mr. Smith noted Mr. Ventres is working with a company to walk and map all the trails on the Town-owned open space. Signage is very important. Mr. Smith is ordering the signs for Roaring Brook, Hatch Lot, Harris and Dean. He already has signs for Rose Farm Homestead, Boot Rock and Davison. Signs will need to be posted this spring. Mr. Smith is working on getting the cradles, and Mr. Gelston will donate cedar poles to demarcate the parking lot boundaries.

5. Old Business

a. Update on East Haddam Public Works Assistance

Mr. Smith has posted caution tape around the well pump hazard on Patrell, and will send an email asking Public Works to address the issue. Mr. Smith will also ask Public Works to address the old foundation issue.

b. Updated Work Day Schedules and Property Assignments

Since March 22, quite a bit of work has been done. On Rose Farm Homestead, about ¾ of boundaries have been marked and tagged and a new survey is being conducted tomorrow. The next work party will be April 26, moved out one week due to the Easter holiday. Completing the boundary along the road allows for the DOT permit to be submitted, and the southern boundary to be established.

c. Volunteer Pool

Tabled until next meeting.

d. Patches and Vests

Mr. Smith will be awarding 6 patches to the Environmental Club at the Middle School.

e. Plan for Phase II work

Tabled until next meeting.

5. Announcements and other discussion

Nothing discussed.

6. Adjournment

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, April 9, 2014

Motion by Ms. Gleeson to adjourn at 7:57 pm, second by Mr. Smith, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Scout projects list