

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

August 13, 2014

Adopted September 9, 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, August 13, 2014 at 7:14 PM at the Gelston residence. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Todd Gelston, Paul Sienna, Marilyn Gleeson, Sue Merrow. Others present: Joe Zaid

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. More Hatch Lot Improvements needed

There are 8 items (see Stewardship Work Priority attachment) for Hatch Lot improvements. They are in priority order; mowing needs to be added. Mr. Gelston has not been able to contact Mr. Shea about mowing, but will make sure he contacts him this week. There are 5 trails in existence: red, white, green, blue and purple. The list does not include the Boy Scout list of work as well. In terms of a bollard, the white trail needs one as well as the eastern end of the blue trail. The bollards must still be procured; there is a need for 4 total. Mr. Smith suggested purchasing steel ones, they will be between \$200-\$400. To install the bollards, a hole must be dug and then concrete must be poured to secure the bollards in place. Mr. Gelston and Mr. Sienna will discuss who's going to research and secure the bollards. A parking lot sign is needed outlining when the area is open and closed. Trail signs are needed, but the bridges have to be done first. The trail signs could mirror those at Sheepskin Hollow Preserve. Signs will be moved down the priority list given that all trails are blazed. Signs are needed at the Hatch Lot given the article written in the Events magazine discussing the Scouts' work on that property. All signs need to be posted as they are all now done and ready to be installed. Parking lot grading has not been done yet. Either the town crew will address or the bulldozer the CC has rented (and does not need for Rose Farm) will be used to grade the Hatch Lot parking lot. Getting the parking lot marked out, graded and boxed out will need about half day of work. Mr. Gelston will call Beth Lund at Public Works to see if and when the Town Crew can help with the parking lot items. Gates can be removed from the list, as the bollards will take the place of gates. Ms. Gleeson has contacted Mr. Ventres to get the GPS to map the trail, but has not received it yet. She will contact him again to determine the model so she can read up on the tool. Ms. Gleeson will also research different apps that can download maps as well. She will also create criteria for trails. The material has been procured for the short bridge, and it is estimated to take 2 hours of work. The long bridge requires an excavator and carpentry work to complete. Mr. Gelston will talk with Public Works about doing the work as well. This is a 20' bridge which should take 2 work parties (3 hours each day). All

the materials need to be pre-cut. Mr. Smith will draw up plans so that Mr. Sienna or Mr. Zaid can cut the materials to size.

The schedule to address the items:

- Bollards: by August 23 work day
- Name Sign: August 23 work day
- Parking lot boxing, grading and gravel: by Sept 6 (Town Crew to address hopefully)
- Move Gate: Sept 20, Trail sign posts: later in the fall
- Parking lot rails, barriers: done later
- Map trail: by Sept 6 work day
- Short Bridge: Sept 20 work day
- Long Bridge: by Sept 6 work day (Town Crew needs to address moving rocks) and by Oct 4 work day for bridge

Rose Farm work was also discussed (see attachment). The bulldozed trails need to be cleaned up. Mr. Smith needs to mark the trails and outline what trails need to be cleared. On the August 23 work day, the priority trails will be addressed. A big rock needs to be installed in the center trail to prevent vehicles from driving down that trail. A gate needs to be installed on the east portion as well (on south side), as well as a boulder to prevent people driving onto the trail (north side). Trails need to be marked on the Sept 6 work day. The trails need to be mapped by Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. The parking lot is usable and can sit until the permit is received. Mr. Smith noted DOT wants a 1/40 scale map, and is working with Bob Weaver to get the map on which Mr. Smith will draw in the parking lot. A paved apron will also need to be installed. All signs have been installed. For the water crossing, there is a need to install a bridge. Mr. Smith will rent a brush mower to address the east side trails that need mowing. Grass seed needs to be spread to ensure erosion control.

b. Work Day Projects for the Fall and beyond

The Davison property needs its property lines marked – target is October 4 work day. Patrell property has been tagged but must be blazed and can wait until the March 2015 work day. Pizzini trails are tagged, cleared and marked. Roaring Brook needs to have a sign installed on it as well as having the property marked. Boundary marking should be done first to ensure the public is aware of the boundaries – target is October 4 work day.

c. East Haddam Public Works Assistance

There are a number of projects requiring Public Works help, and Mr. Gelston will discuss with Beth Lund.

d. Questions from the Boy Scouts

Mr. Gelston asked the Boy Scouts to join the meeting, but all were on vacation. Not much work has been completed yet. Griffin Sheperd has not submitted his proposal to the Boy Scouts of America yet to get approval, and cannot begin working until that approval is provided. There is another Forestry and Stewardship meeting next Wednesday, to have the Boy Scouts to present their plans to the sub-committee. Mr. Sheperd has been in contact with Mr. Smith and has made some progress on the plans. The Mosig brothers would like to build the kiosks, but they are looking for guidance around design, location and costs from the sub-committee. The CC will need to provide plans to the Mosig brothers; Mr. Smith will find the plans or provide the information to the brothers to research themselves.

Mr. Smith received an email from Lisa Nicoli from Lyme, asking for a potential Eagle Scout project on the Patrell property. Mr. Gelston will email Lisa back and discuss how to coordinate inviting the Boy Scout to the meeting next week.

e. Other issues

Mr. Zaid's wife, Stacy, has volunteered to help with the Trail Guide. Ms. Gleeson will head up the sub-committee and create a plan to update the Trail Guide.

5. Old Business

a. Updated Work Day Schedule and Property Assignments

See above for work day schedule and assignments. Mr. Gelston wants to get into a work day cadence of having one every 2 weeks.

b. Volunteer Pool

More volunteers are needed. Darlene Dunbar and Bernie Gillis are both interested in being stewards of properties. Mr. Gelston will invite them to come to the next meeting. Property stewards need to be noted on the signs or a contact will need to be established.

c. Patches and Vests

Mr. Smith has rewarded several patches to the Environmental Club.

d. Meeting Schedule for the next 3 months

Tabled until next meeting.

5. Announcements and other discussion

None.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Sienna to adjourn at 9:22 pm, second by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette

Recording Secretary

- Stewardship Work Priority