

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

August 27, 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 27, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Gelston residence. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being absent, Marilyn Gleeson took the minutes.

a. Roll Call

Todd Gelston, Marilyn Gleeson, Sue Merrow, Paul Sienna. Others present: Volunteer Joe Zaid, Boy Scouts: Griffin Shepherd, Kyle Mosig, and Adam Mosig, parent Neil Mosig, Boy Scout Leader Tony D'Addio

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Sue Merrow to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Paul Sienna and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Tabled until the next meeting.

4. New Business

None to discuss.

5. Old Business

Todd Gelston gave an overview of Conservation Commission work. He stressed the need to do what we say and say what we do. We need to make sure we are all on the same page. Also, there is a need to get approval of projects that are planned by others and to ensure that we agree with them.

The Scouts introduced themselves, and each stated that they are eager to start on their projects. They also expressed thanks for the opportunity to do the work needed to obtain their Eagle Scout status.

a. Status of Eagle Scout Projects

Hatch Lot Camp Site: Since last time, Griffin Shepherd said that he is planning on the same area for the site. He talked to Fred Hunt at Shagbark, who will give him the lumber at cost. He asked about funding for the material. The estimated cost is about \$350 for the lumber and hardware, for both picnic tables and the outhouse. He did not include the hinges. He plans to produce two picnic tables for use, one primitive pit toilet (a hole in the ground and outhouse shape around it). Todd Gelston asked if a pit toilet is allowed by the town. There is a need to check with Chatham Health to be sure. The CC would apply for a permit, if needed. Mr. Gelston will ask the Chatham Health District representative to find out. Mr. Gelston then asked how often the pit toilet might be used? Pit will be about 4-5 feet deep. After some period it has to be filled and another one built with the outhouse moved to cover it.

Mr. Gelston inquired as to how often the campsite might be used. Mr. D'Addio suggested the Scouts might use it 5-6 times/year. Mr. Gelston suggested the CC estimate use at about once a

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month for 10 months with typically 25 people making camp (Mr. D'Addio's estimated numbers). Sites are also typically rated for a maximum number of people, and it is necessary to obtain a permit to use the site. The CC will start estimating 25 people for use of the site and build a larger site as needed. Other sites are usually closed March/April due to soft ground. Materials for fire pit will consist of rocks found on site and will be used for cooking. Number of campers per tent varies from 8-10 or 2-3 depending on the size of the tent. The Scouts use a Dutch oven or foil wrapped food so don't need a pole to hang a pot over the fire pit. As for visibility to the sight, it can be seen from the orange trail a bit but it can't be seen from the road. Tent campers usually lay a ground pad of plastic and any water mostly flows under that liner.

This project will need BSA approval. The approval from Troup 22 was obtained, but the project needs to get Scout District Advancement Chair approval. As for funding, the Scouts can fund-raise, but the plan to provide the money needed must be decided before final Scout approval can be obtained. Mr. Gelston said the CC would likely decide to match the Scout amount raised. Mr. Shepherd noted that to raise funds, they usually do bake sales, solicit donations, etc. The CC will help with maps so people know where the Hatch Lot is located. Ms. Gleeson will contact Jim Ventres about any need for permits for the outhouse/toilet and if a public hearing is needed.

Since Mr. Shepherd needs CC help for a possible permit around the toilet, Mr. Gelston committed to getting full CC approval at the 9/9/2014 meeting. Mr. D'Addio suggested it would take two Saturday workdays to complete the work. The picnic tables will be assembled offsite. Prior to using the completed site, final approval from the Scouts Organization is needed.

Kiosks for all parcels: Adam and Kyle Mosig handed out sketches for potential kiosks and a list of the hardware needed, but do not have a total cost yet. Because they are twins, they will need to do separate projects. The kiosks they want to build will have shingle roofs and a Plexiglas section for a map.

### b. Plans for the completion of the Eagle Scout Projects

Hatch Lot Camp Site: Plans for the outhouse were shared by Mr. Shepherd. The tables do not have plans yet. Mr. Gelston asked about access to the campsite and if a footpath was needed. Mr. Shepherd stated that there is no need as it is open and an easy walk from the road. He has not determined the area size of the campsite yet. He is also unsure how big the campsite will be at this point.

Kiosks for all parcels: Mr. Sienna showed a picture of a nice kiosk in Middlefield that the sub-committee members liked, and it is similar to what Adam and Kyle Mosig envisioned. As for materials, they will approach Shagbark to see if they will provide the materials at cost. Again, the CC will fund some of it. As for locations, the CC definitely wants one built at the Hatch Lot. Other possibilities are Rose Farm and Chapel Farm. There is a need for one big one (Kyle Mosig will do this) and two small ones (Adam will do these). Mr. Sienna said they need to get the posts down 3 feet at least. Mr. Gelston said they needed to create plans so we can re-use them and that we need estimates for building. Ms. Gleeson will ask Jim V. about needed permits. Wood shingles will be used for the roofs.

The CC expressed that we want to get this done as soon as possible, but they can't get full approval until they submit final plans to the sub-committee. Mr. D'Addio said they still need to obtain troop approval. The CC is targeting approval for the kiosks in October.

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- c. Mr. D'Addio noted the scouts are mapping trails for 'My Town Trails' website with the town's GPS. They did Babcock Pond, but there is trouble uploading the trail map to the site maps. Nichols is already done and on the website. The GPS works fine but is not working well uploading to maps. Tiffany Quinn has the data but has been unable to upload to town maps.

### 6. Announcements and other discussions

Mr. Gelston reported the Hatch lot was mowed and will be mowed again in the fall.

Mr. Gelston talked to Beth Lunt at Public Works, who indicated they are willing to do more work for us and wanted estimates of the amount of time we need them. For the next request for Public Works support, the CC will provide them plans so there will be no misunderstandings as what is needed.

Beth Lunt also asked for maps of all the properties in town so they know what we are talking about since they are uncertain where some of them are located. The CC's next priority is to have the parking lot at Hatch worked on. There is still needed work on Rose Farm that Public Works can support.

Mr. Sienna reported the lumber for the small bridge frame for Hatch is cut so it ready to be assembled.

Mr. Gelston said Mr. Smith is trying to get approval for the CC to use town equipment in building the bridges and finishing the parking lot at Hatch. The town is focusing on patching/ paving and mowing right now. The CC will need an excavator to do the footings for the large bridge.

Ms. Gleeson stated the gravel at Patrell needs to be moved as it is unsightly, and the people next to it selling the house could complain. Mr. Sienna thought the gravel there might include enough gravel for Hatch. He also said that we probably need some kind of fence at the Patrell parking area to make sure people don't go onto private property.

Mr. Gelston stated that we need more volunteers for our work parties. Signs will be posted at the following locations: Rathbun Library/Post Office, Two Wrasslin' Cats, and somewhere in Moodus Center.

Mr. Gelston mentioned there is town controversy around who stewards the Harris property. People think the CC is the steward. When it was purchased, some of the land was set aside for municipal purposes. The State bought 18 acres of the property for athletic fields, agricultural use, etc. Mark Walters is having a Public Hearing, recently announced in a press release, to clear things up. The Community kitchen is on hold. The hearing will occur later in September. Linda Stuhlman will come to our next CC meeting with the history of the purchase and inform us of the plan going forward.

### 7. Adjournment

No formal adjournment due to time and Chairperson constraints.

Respectfully submitted

Marilyn Gleeson (for Shannon Goyette)  
Conservation Commission Member