

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

October 15, 2014

Adopted November 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, October 15, 2014 at 7:05 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, 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. Preparation required to design and print a New Trail Guide

Ms. Gleeson did quite a bit of research and purchased the Essex trail guide to review it. See the attachments for her research. Mobile tagging is the way of the future, but she is unsure how the CC can use tap into this technology. Discussion ensued about how the CC is now in a different place in terms of distribution and charging. For the first printing, the focus was on getting the guides out to people, and now the focus is a bit different.

Ms. Gleeson provided a handout which included a mockup of a new trail map design, a description of mobile tagging, and cost estimates for re-printing the existing trail guide with no changes from Stacy Zaid. She felt that we needed to consider a two-pronged approach. First would be creation of digital topographical color maps on a website that could be either printed from the website or downloaded via a smartphone. This would require work on the EH Land Trust website to revise the maps and embedding of the QR code (quick response code). It would also require making the QR code available at each property where we have hiking trails. Second would be creation of paper maps for individual properties for those who do not have smartphones or would prefer to carry a map in their pocket. We would probably want these to be on some kind of durable paper that would not disintegrate quickly if wet.

Ms. Gleeson provided a sample that Stacy Zaid gave her of a very high quality paper, but that might be too expensive so we need to explore a more cost effective option. There was also discussion about providing a full set of maps, either for free or for purchase. We would need to explore how the set would be put together and mention of pocket folders or some kind of pull out options was discussed. More research is needed here. We did agree that the level of detail desired for our future maps was to have a type of watermark for the topographical details with color details for the trails and various features on those trails (e.g., bridges, parking, etc.) We would not have to wait to roll out an entire set of maps but could do them one at a time, providing a complete set at the end. We would replace the existing maps with the new ones as they are ready. We all agreed that the priority is to create some kind of map for Hatch as soon as we can. As for charging for the maps, we were not sure if the EHCC is

able to charge or if it can only be done that way through the Land Trust. Ms. Gleeson will contact Linda Zemienieski for an answer to that question. Ms. Gleeson then provided an update on the properties that she has digitally mapped with the GPS device. Before she completes doing this for all the trails, she would like to ensure that the digital tracks can be downloaded and overlaid onto topographical maps. Mr. Smith suggested that she see if there is an application compatible with the Garmin GPS that we might be able to purchase. Mr. Gelston said that our end point for producing a full set of new maps should be April 2015. He suggested we need a project plan outlining the tasks, timelines, resources, etc. Ms. Gleeson said that once she knew the digital tracks could be used to create new maps, she would produce the project plan. Mr. Gelston offered to check with Thomas Degnan, who is on the Board of the CT Forest & Park Association, who may be able to provide us some guidance on how to best proceed since they have an excellent website and trail guides.

b. More Hatch Lot Improvements needed

Mr. Gelston reported that there is additional gravel work needed at the Hatch Lot parking area, and that is scheduled for Friday, 10/17. There is no work day scheduled for Saturday, 10/18, due to the Riverfest. In addition, Hatch needs to have the bollards and locks installed. Mr. Smith mentioned the blue trail will also need a slight change as there is a wet spot he would like to bypass. Mr. Smith also passed around plans for the large kiosk, which will be at the Hatch parking lot, and the small kiosks, which will be at both ends of Rose Farm.

c. Work Day Projects for the Fall and beyond

Rose Farm also needs additional work. The white trail needs to be completed and the gate from Hatch needs to be installed. In addition, a bollard is needed at Patrell on the paved area so that cars do not go where they shouldn't.

d. East Haddam Public Works Assistance

EH Public Works has provided some assistance, but they are limited since two of their staff are out due to injury and they are engaged in paving work in town. Mr. Gelston spoke to Beth Lunt who is willing to have her staff help us out but requested a list of all of our properties and their locations. Mr. Smith will send maps of the properties to Mr. Gelston so he can get them to Ms. Lunt. As for smaller jobs, Ms. Lunt would like a list. There was discussion about ensuring that detailed instructions are provided when asking the town to do work so that there is no misunderstanding.

e. Plan for the Sabine Parcel

Mr. Gelston reported the Sabine Parcel is a jewel. It is essentially two parks separated by water. Mr. Sienna and Mr. Gelston walked the property with Tom Buhl, the Boy Scout who is planning his Eagle Scout Project on the property, this past weekend. The three foot bridge he planned really needs to be sixteen feet, and he agreed to vary the trail from his original plans to include a hill that can provide a nice view for hikers of the reservoir. Next steps are for Mr. Buhl to draw a detailed map of his planned route and show it to the EHCC before work begins. Part of it has already been flagged. He expects to have 40 Boy Scouts participating in this project.

5. Old Business

a. Volunteer Pool

We hope to get more volunteers, but it is hard with parents needing to attend their children's sports activities on weekends.

b. Patches and Vests

Ms. Merrow suggested we display our patch at the Riverfest and have a signup sheet for people interested in volunteering. We can advertise the fact that if they volunteer 20 hours on workdays they can earn a patch. Ms. Gleeson agreed to take care of that.

5. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith announced that three of our sandwich boards are out reminding people of the Riverfest on 10/18. Ms. Gleeson will be working at the EHCC desk. She received the tri-fold display, and Mr. Smith should have some maps for her to put on it. Mr. Sienna did take some pictures of Hatch but needs to see if he can get them developed in time. We will also have a few of the remaining existing trail guides available.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Gelston to adjourn at 9:30 pm, second by Ms. Merrow, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette and Marilyn Gleeson (on behalf of the Recording Secretary who had to leave early)
Recording Secretary

- Example of Nichols property trail guides
- Conservation Committee Trail Book
- Mobile Tagging information