

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

February 3, 2015

March 19, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at 7:36 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Marilyn Gleeson, Joe Zaid, Peggy Carlson, Sue Merrow, Paul Sienna, Todd Gelston. Others in attendance:

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Gelston to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 1/6/15

1a. added Charlotte and Todd Gelston to the Roll Call

6c. included a "t" on budget.

5a. change hardware to software

5a. changed reviewed to removed

6b. changed joined to were present

Motion by Ms. Gleeson to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved. Ms. Merrow abstained.

4. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee Minutes for 1/14/15

Motion by Mr. Gelston to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted that due to the snow, there is not much to report. Ray of Light purchased the property Ray of Light Farm sits upon for \$900,000 in December 2014.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Gleeson provided an update on the maps. She has done quite a bit of work in creating the maps so far. Mr. Smith noted that for black and white map printing, Ms. Gleeson can put a letter on top of the trail to denote certain ones. Ms. Gleeson will send out the narrative information to the group for review. The parcels and the roads need to be included before the maps can be printed.

Volunteer Activism: nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted the Casner subdivision has been discussed but no decision has been made. There is too much conflicting information from the applicant. Plus there is the issue that it has been deemed open space. There are also questions on the size and location of vernal pools. IWWC needs other information and needs legal clarification on if it a buildable lot.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted they are looking at creating special exceptions for solar panels mounted close to the roof. The Rotary Club lights were discussed in-depth; and the P&Z members attended a walk to see how bright the Tonucci property is at night with the lights on. Mr. Casner provided an update on Shagbark; he is coming up with a list of the issues that need to be addressed. The Shagbark wetlands issue requires an expert who will report back in 30 days.

c. Update on open space purchases
Nothing new to report.

d. Linear Trail update
Nothing new to report.

e. Trowbridge Road property discussion
Mr. Smith submitted the letter to the Selectmen.

f. Scouting update
Mr. Smith has heard nothing from any of the Boy Scouts who are involved in any Eagle Scout projects.

6. New Business

a. New bills
No new bills.

b. Public Comment
No members of the public joined the meeting.

c. 2015-2016 Budget
Mr. Gelston noted that the Selectmen have signaled that the Town is looking for zero growth, the State is sending less monies to smaller towns and the Board of Education is looking for more money. The CC is looking to request \$26,000, less than the amount requested last year. This year, there will be a large number of expenses associated with the parking lots that must be created. Mr. Merrow suggested noting in the submission that this year's budget is less than last year's. Mr. Gelston asked Mr. Smith to sit down with the Selectmen to make sure they understand what the CC is looking to do and to get their support.

7. Next meeting – March 3, at The River House.

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith sent a letter in support of the Disc Golf proposal. DEEP ruled that Disc Golf cannot be used on any of the properties purchased with State funding. This means that the properties that must be considered are ones purchased without State funding.

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Mr. Smith brought up the CLCC conference on open space to see if there are any interested CC members who might want to attend. It is in March, and is at Wesleyan University. Mr. Zaid is interested in attending the conference; Mr. Smith will send the information.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Sienna to adjourn at 9:05 pm, seconded by Ms. Carlson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- Letter to Dan Carbo regarding Disc Golf
- Letter to Selectmen regarding the Trowbridge Land Swap request
- Sheepskin Hollow Preserve trail map
- Hatch Lot trail map