

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

July 7, 2015

Adopted August 4, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, at 7:32 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Joe Zaid, Peggy Carlson, Marilyn Gleeson, Paul Sienna, Sue Merrow, Rob Smith, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston. Others present: Emmett Lyman

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 6/2/15

5.b. Changed Chapham and DEEP to Chatham and DOA. Changed a to are related to major concerns.

5.d. removed the last sentence describing boundaries for clarity

5.e. Updated perimeters to parameters

5.f. added and between raised and addressed.

8. Changed Mr. Sprecher's name to spell it correctly in both places.

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

4. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee Minutes 6/8/15

3.a. added Eightmile River to describe the bridge.

4.a. Changed turn styles to turnstiles.

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted that quite a bit of work has been accomplished between Hatch Lot and the Harris property. The blue trail in Hatch Lot needs more markings to enable a more easy hike when the trees have leaves on them. The orange trail on the Dean easement also needs additional markings. The green paint marks on Hatch Lot match the green of the leaves, so a white border is needed. At Hatch Lot trail crossings, sign posts are needed to help direct hikers. With the wind storm last week, a number of trees came down on the Harris property and will need to be cleaned. Where the blue trail meets the white trail on the Hatch Lot, there is a tree that needs to be taken down. There is potential for

another trail coming up from Parker Road on the Hatch Lot. The 2 gravel piles have been spread on Hatch Lot: Ms. Gleeson noted that it looks very nice. There are very carefully placed stones to demarcate the parking area as well. Ms. Gelston noted that the top of the blue trail needs cleaning up. The road up to the top needs to be mowed as well. The Hartford Courant article on the Hatch Lot was very well received. Harris property has had quite a bit of work completed, but more is needed. The fields need to be brush-hogged again, as the vegetation has grown up significantly. Mr. Gelston would like the next work day to be at the Hatch Lot. Mr. Gelston asked Mr. Lyman if the town crew has a mower now; Mr. Gelston will call and talk with Public Works to ask for them to cut some areas of the Hatch Lot. The permit for Rose Farm from the State has come back for additional information. The State noted a Stop sign will need to be posted and a stop line also has to be marked out. The site lines also need to be evaluated by the Town Engineer. Mr. Smith noted that the permit should be complete by the next meeting. Ms. Merrow suggested that the East Haddam Community Lions may be a good candidate to steward the Davison Preserve. The boundaries need to be addressed on Davison.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow is writing an article for Events around the maps and noted that it would be helpful to have a sign posted on the map holders advertising that Town of East Haddam maps are available. Ms. Gelston will determine if the map holders are equipped to hold a sign denoting Town of East Haddam. Ms. Gelston will determine how to get a sign posted on the turnstiles. The Town Clerk will be posting new wall hanging units in place of the map holder, as it is very large and in her line of sight. Ms. Gelston will remove the map holder once the Town Hall wall hangings are posted, and provide it to Staehley's Farm. Mr. Smith noted that trail maps are already becoming depleted.

Volunteer Activism: Ms. Gleeson noted she has the large maps for the kiosks but only some are installed. Dean and Hatch Lot are both mounted. One of the Rose Farm maps is posted as well. All kiosks are stained. The website for the CC is in Linda Z.'s hands. The link will also be provided on MyTownTrails, and then the QR will be added as well. Mr. Sienna noted that it would be helpful to have an address that people can post within a GPS so that directions are not necessary.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted the meeting got moved, and he was not able to attend.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted the last meeting was cancelled but reviewed the meeting from two meetings ago. Shagbark should be addressed by July 1. The Cameron Family Farm has been closed down; it is a \$600,000 fiasco. There will be a public hearing on Disc Golf soon once the principals decide which property they feel is appropriate for a course.

c. Linear Trail update

Mr. Smith is waiting on Mr. Nemergut to put the plans together for the Eightmile River bridge. Between the CC budget, the EHLT donation and the Eightmile \$10,000 grant from the National Park Service, there is enough monies to purchase the wood, steel and hardware (which still needs to be ordered).

d. Trowbridge Road property discussion

Mr. Smith has heard no new information. Mr. Lyman noted that the swap is moving forward, and there will be a Town Meeting on that.

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- e. Disc Golf  
There was a grant approved at the last Town Meeting. The grant is specific for Nichols property.
- f. Agriculture agreement on Shugrue  
This has been addressed, although Mr. Smith has not received a final agreement.
- g. Youth group permit and process  
There are a few changes to be made:  
Instructions: Change fee to free.  
Part 111: remove (Circle One) and add Hatch Lot, remove Site Number.  
Under Guidelines – last bullet on page 1 – that March 1 to the third weekend in April is frost season. Duration of camp stay is 3 days, 2 nights. Add in a limit of no more than 40 people per camp site per time.  
Mr. Gelston asked about Liability Release. Mr. Smith noted this draft is going before the Town's Attorney.

6. New Business

- a. New bills  
20 of the brochure holders - \$300.06 total  
Motion by Mr. Gelston to pay invoice, seconded by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.  
  
Garmen - \$299  
Motion by Ms. Merrow to pay invoice, seconded by Ms. Carlson, unanimously approved.  
  
Rotating displays - \$1351.46  
Motion by Ms. Gelston to pay invoice, seconded by Ms. Merrow, unanimously approved.  
  
Shagbark - \$832.77 for supplies, split rail fence for Patrell, boundary post markers, etc  
Motion by Ms. Merrow to pay invoice; seconded by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.  
  
Williams Lee - \$2283 printing  
Motion by Ms. Gelston to pay invoice; seconded by Ms. Merrow, unanimously approved.  
  
Renz - \$650 for gravel  
Motion by Mr. Gelston to pay invoice; seconded by Mr. Sienna, unanimously approved.  
  
Decking for Linear Trail Bridge - \$4400  
Motion by Mr. Gelston to pay invoice; seconded by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.  
  
Middletown Plate Glass - \$997  
Motion by Ms. Merrow to pay invoice; seconded by Mr. Zaid, unanimously approved.
- b. Public Comment  
No public attended.
- c. Reappointments

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Mr. Smith noted that pretty much every member needs to be reappointed. The following people and their expiration dates are: Todd Gelston (6/30/15), Paul Sienna (6/30/14), Sue Merrow (6/30/15), Marilyn Gleeson (6/30/14), Peggy Carlson (6/30/15) and Rob Smith (6/30/15). Everyone noted they are interested in staying on for another term. Mr. Smith will send a note to the First Selectmen's Office.

Motion by Ms. Gelston to reappoint the expired committee members; seconded by Mr. Zaid, unanimously approved.

d. 2014-2015 budget review

Mr. Smith noted that all materials for the Eightmile River bridge superstructure have been acquired, except for the hardware. All monies in the budget have been spent with no left over. Some supplies have also been ordered for the next fiscal year. Another trail printing is needed; Mr. Smith will ask the EHLT to fund the next trail printing. Ms. Gelston will determine which maps are running low and then determine what properties need additional trail maps printed. Mr. Gelston noted that the CC needs to print more of the popular maps.

e. Scout presentation on Middle School trails

The Scouts could not attend, but Mr. Smith explained that the Scouts are interested in expanding the Ventola nature trail (named after Noah Ventola who spearheaded the creation of the Environmental Club). This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Next meeting – August 4, at The River House.

8. Announcements and other discussion

The Eightmile River is hosting programs in the park at Devil's Hopyard from 9-10am for three Saturdays in a row starting July 11th through July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Diane Guggenheim sent a letter requesting permission to continue to mow the open field that abuts their land. The CC has no issue with that request. Mr. Smith will send a letter to the Selectmen asking them to review the property and request.

Mr. Smith noted that the Sabine property needs kiosks. Mr. Gelston suggested that given the work that is still needed, it would be a good idea to focus on the work that is already underway and see if the Boy Scouts are interested in doing further projects with the CC. Mr. Gelston will discuss with Tony D'Addeo. Ms. Gleeson suggested walking through the properties that need kiosks at the next Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee meeting. The Harris property needs a kiosk as well. The Harris property sign needs to be updated as it is not correct with the acreage. The next Forestry and Stewardship Sub-committee is scheduled for 7pm on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

I-Park is having an Open House this Sunday afternoon, but reservations are required.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gelston to adjourn at 9:23pm, seconded by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

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- Updated Instructions for Completing the Youth Group Camping Application Form
- List of CC member 2-year term reappointments