

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

September 1, 2015

Adopted October 6, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, at 7:42 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Marilyn Gleeson, Peggy Carlson, Paul Sienna, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 8/4/15

6.e. removed extra "to".

6.e. changed last sentence for readability.

6.j. changed "not the" to "no"

8. added "DOT" to outline the permit

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston was unable to attend the last work party day. Mr. Zaid and Mr. Smith did quite a bit of work though. On the Davison property, the boundary needs to be marked. There is a work party scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 12 to address Davison property needs. The Shugrue property boundaries need to be marked as well.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Gleeson showed the Hatch Lot's QR that will be posted behind the Lexan, allowing users to access the map via their smart phones. She will create a QR for each map. The maps were ordered and received as discussed at the prior meeting. The bigger maps have also been ordered and received. Ms. Carlson noted that Grandview Campground has requested additional maps. Mr. Smith has not moved the map holder currently located at the Castle but suggested that it may be a good idea to move one to the Campground.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted Mr. Ventres presented the Disc Golf proposal on the Nichols property. The course has been redesigned to avoid wetlands, and IWWC had no problems. IWWC has approved the proposal.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted 18 Shore Road requested the right to have a hot dog cart, with a Public Hearing scheduled for Sept. 8. EDC still has nothing on the sewer cost. Shagbark

applied for the septic system. There is discussion about putting a pedestrian walkway onto the swing bridge.

c. Disc Golf

A new Disc Golf course has been cleared to be established on Nichols Field. Mr. Smith suggested the CC recommend the Park and Rec Commission be the primary maintainer of Nichols Field. Given the large amount of recreational use, it does not make sense for two different Town Commissions to manage the same property. The map will need to be moved to the Park and Rec's website, and referenced from the CC's website.

d. Youth group permit and process

The Town's insurance carrier reviewed the application, and provided additional language to be added to the permit. Additional questions were also provided related to Certificate of Insurance (COI). Mr. Smith reviewed the suggested changes; the CC did not have any issues with the changes. Mr. Smith will let Linda Z. know the CC has no issues, and she can update as needed such that the permit can move forward.

e. Scout presentation on Middle School trails (expansion of Ventola Nature Trail)

Mr. Smith reviewed the changes to the trail and approved the changes. The Environmental Club is keeping the trails updated.

f. Update on Sprecher property swap

Mr. Smith noted Nancy Talbot, of the Land Use Office, was putting together the meets and bounds for the Sprecher property to get the transfer completed.

g. Dean parking lot location

Mr. Smith was not able to meet with Beth Lunt or Rich Toolan of EH Public Works to discuss the parking situation.

h. Chapman Pond stewardship

Mr. Smith has not had time to write the letter to the Nature Conservancy requesting they address the access road maintenance needed. The maintenance needed is a sign, a pipe to help divert the water and 4 or 5 loads of gravel to spread onto the road, making the road passable.

i. Map printing: Burnham Brook, Ballahack, Jezek, Sheepskin Hollow, Olde Field & Hatch Lot
Maps have been printed and received.

j. Requesting access to the CC website

Ms. Gleeson has talked with Linda Z., who is amenable to helping get the CC's website up and fully functioning. The logo and pictures can be posted. Ms. Gleeson suggested forming a sub-committee who can outline what the page should look like and then determine the amount of time to get the site updated. Ms. Gleeson will create some recommendations for possible web page designs, and Mr. Smith and Ms. Gleeson will discuss further with Linda Z.

5. New Business

a. New bills

Shagbark bill of ~\$150 for paint and other supplies

Motion by Mr. Gelston to pay the bill, seconded by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

Bill for car magnets to show the cars are associated with a Conservation Commission function. \$100

Motion by Ms. Gelston to pay the bill, seconded by Ms. Carlson, unanimously approved.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

c. Linear Trail footbridge update

Musical Bridges was an EHLT function to raise monies to contribute to the building of the bridge at Chapal Farm property. Mr. Smith showed the plans. The bridge is the same type of bridge as the one over Sheepskin Hollow. The only change is in the railings per the building inspector's request. The bridge is 75 feet long and is passable by horses as well. The west side pier has to be raised. Mr. Sienna will investigate renting a concrete cutting chain saw. Bids have been requested, but none have been submitted yet.

6. Next meeting – October 6, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

The CC has only spent a few hundred dollars to date of the current year's budget.

In the process of looking at the Harris property public meeting fact sheet, Mr. Smith researched the In Cord donation and discovered it is the name of the company that donated money to the town.

There is one tractor purchased through a \$25K donation to the town for the Ag Commission and the CC to use. Mr. Smith has requested the CC be able to use the tractor, and the town's insurance carrier is reviewing the request.

The Trowbridge Road property swap has been recommended by the Selectmen and now must move to a public meeting to discuss. The townspeople will have the right to vote on the swap.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gelston to adjourn at 9:21pm, seconded by Ms. Carlson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary