

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

October 6, 2015

Adopted November 9, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 7:30 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Joe Zaid, Marilyn Gleeson, Peggy Carlson, Rob Smith, Sue Merrow, Charlotte Gelston, Paul Sienna – arrived 7:50.

2. Approval of Agenda

Added Davison property and stewardship by Community Lions under New Business.

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 9/1/15

4d. changed “changed” to “changes”

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Smith noted there is nothing new in Forestry to report. In Stewardship, the last work party was at Davison Preserve. Mr. Smith, Mr. Sienna and Mr. Gelston marked 2/3 of the boundary. Mr. Smith had marked a new trail, but the team did not have time to work on it. There was a berm of dirt at the entrance that had been back-bladed. Mr. Smith talked with the ATVer (who drove through during the work party) who had cleared part of the officially marked hiking trail, making it clear that ATVs are not allowed on the property. Bruce Williams, an adjacent property owner, has a right of way to cross the property to get to his property. He also helped Mr. Smith locate the boundaries. Saturday, October 17, is another work day; the focus will be to address the Davison walking trail. A new gate will need to be installed to prevent ATVs. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Weaver to survey the property; its 14.1 acres and a large portion of the boundary consists of drill holes in ledge which are very hard to find. There is an old 1977 survey that needs to be updated. There are more signs to be posted: Harris property to denote trail head parking, Patrell denoting private and public parking, and the Dean property (new signs are needed to correctly show horseback riding is not allowed).

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow submitted an article about Mr. Zaid to the Events magazine. Mr. Smith discussed his conversation with the EDC about funding the printing of the next version of the trail maps; Mr. Casner, EDC chairperson, agreed. Mr. Sienna suggested submitting an article to the East Haddam Newspaper on various activities being conducted by the CC. Mr. Smith removed the map holder from the Castle and will drop it off

at Staehleys. Mr. Smith also has removed the Town Hall map holder and will drop it off at the Grandview Campground. Ms. Gleeson will discuss the options for printing map QRs on stickers for post on the property signs and the map holders.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Tabled as Mr. Gelston did not attend.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted that DEEP is no longer doing predeterminations for waste water systems (for major septic systems). They will only conduct the review at the end. Bashan Lake need biomass treatment. The P&Z asked Mr. Casner to create a signage sub-committee to revisit signage regulations. The P&Z distributed sewer extension into the Four Corners (up near Shagbark) and into Moodus Village. There will be discussion about putting it into the Plan of Conservation and Development. The Grandview Campground is removing the existing dormitory and adding 7 more sites, installing an evergreen barrier. All the Shagbark violations are still not addressed but are getting closer to being addressed. Cameron Family Farm has been renamed to New England Hatchery, and there's work underway to determine if there's a way to get that operation up and running. There is a new consideration for Banner Lodge extension and a number of approvals have been granted.

c. Youth group permit and process

Mr. Smith has heard nothing new, but has discussed with Linda Z. of the Town Hall to proceed as needed with the notifications.

d. Update on Sprecher property swap

Mr. Smith noted that the meets and bounds have been put on paper to be forwarded to the Town attorney for the transfer. Mr. Smith spoke with Mr. Dean about the need for this connector. Mr. Smith is going to discuss with the Dean family to determine if they will allow horses to pass through that small part of the property to get to other properties.

e. Dean parking lot location

The Town will put in a parking lot at the south end of Parker Road, past the Goodspeeds and Dean Farm. At the north end, parallel parking will be employed.

f. Chapman Pond stewardship

Mr. Smith provided an email to the group prior to the meeting, noting the TNC is working on the improvements.

g. Requesting access to the CC website

Ms. Gleeson reached out to Linda Z. to determine if the CC has to use the standard page format; she has not heard back.

h. Linear Trail footbridge update

Mr. Smith noted \$15,000 of grant monies has been awarded to the Eightmile Wild and Scenic to use for the bridge. The Lyme Land Trust, which has fiduciary responsibility for the Eightmile Wild and Scenic, may write the check to pay for the steel. The steel will cost \$13,000 and there's \$2,000 needed for the bridge completion. At the next EHLT work party,

the concrete for the bridge abutment that needs to be raised may be poured. There may be the ability to use an excavator to drop the pre-assembled beams in place.

5. New Business

a. New bills

Bill for Shagbark for \$69.73, for bolts and stain.

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

Bill for Williams Lee for \$467.16, for map printing.

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

Bill from Mr. Buhl, who does not want to deal with the CC due to what he perceives to be unfair and undue treatment and only wants to deal with the Selectmen. Mr. Walters provided a copy of the letter with his comments to Mr. Smith. Mr. Buhl has stated that the CC had agreed to pay for some of the materials. The minutes of the meeting in which Mr. Buhl (the Eagle Scout candidate) show that the CC did offer to pay the materials after fund raising was completed. Mr. Buhl did no fundraising; his father paid for all the materials. Mr. Smith suggested the CC pay 50% of the costs incurred by Tom Buhl in construction of the bridge for his Eagle Scout project.

Motion by Mr. Zaid to pay 50% of the bill, seconded by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

c. Davison property and stewardship by Community Lions

Ms. Merrow is presenting to the Community Lions the possibility of stewarding the 14.1 acre Davison property and will report back at the next meeting. There will be a 0.77 mile trail that goes up to an elevation of 301 feet and is above Cave Hill Resort.

6. Next meeting – November 3, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

The November meeting will be moved from Tuesday, November 3, to Monday, November 9, due to Election Day. Ms. Goyette will provide an email notification reminding people of the date change, as well as secure a room location.

Mr. Smith will reach out to CT DOT to determine where the encroachment permit (to address the right of way onto Rt. 82 from Rose Farm Homestead) is in the approval process.

The adjacent property to the Trowbridge road property requesting a land swap is for sale.

Mr. Smith has not addressed transferring the Nichols property stewardship to Park and Rec.

Mr. Zaid noted DEEP is posting signs with “Be Bear Aware” with things to consider to stay safe when encountering bears. Mr. Smith asked the CC if there is interest to post this on open space property.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gelston to adjourn at 9:08pm, seconded by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary