

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

December 1, 2015
Adopted January 5, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 7:38 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Marilyn Gleeson, Peggy Carlson, Paul Sienna, Rob Smith, Todd Gelston, Charlotte 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 11/9/15

4.a. updated the date that Mr. Gelston worked with the Disc Golf crew to Sunday morning, 11/7/15

7. Added “ed” to pump.

7. Added “head” to trailhead and added “and recycle information”.

7. Added “and gave a short speech thanking them for their service” to the Mosig brothers Eagle Scout ceremony.

7. Changed “received” to “became” and added an “s” to Scout.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted there has been quite a bit of work done on the Lena property. The boundary has been tagged. Next work party is this coming Saturday at the Davison property. The trail will be blazed and the boundaries will be marked. The gate needs to be changed out as well. The sign also needs to be installed. The surveyor found the boundary with Cave Hill and discovered the cave is located on the Town’s property. The surveyor moved any markings that were incorrect. The bridge at Patrell also needs to be completed prior to year-end.

Outreach and Promotion: Tabled as Ms. Merrow was not in attendance.

Volunteer Activism: Mr. Gelston noted that there is a new member of the Stewardship committee, who volunteered to help out with the Lena property and is interested in helping during other work parties.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted there are a number of items related to Bashan Lake. There is one property next to Bailey’s Beach that is building a cottage. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Gelston if he knew the purpose of Melissa Ziobron’s meeting on the topic of the Bashan Lake dam. Mr. Gelston noted that the State had 2 choices about how to repair the dam. One was to build a

dam that would not require water drainage, and the other was a cheaper way that required water drainage. The construction started late, then heavy snow resulted in further delays. The overall issue is that the State is maintaining the water level needs to remain low for 3 years. Mr. Gelston was of the understanding the contractor was not held to specific dates for addressing the dam, and there were no penalties for the contractor for the delays.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted the Shagbark septic has a final walkthrough this week. There is work on developing heliport regulations given a site on Honey Hill will be proposing the installation of one. Banner Lodge was the main topic of the night. Phase 1 and Phase 2 are both approved, with a total of 86 approved units. Only 50 have been built thus far. Most have been bought back by the developer. There was quite a bit of concern raised by the current residents. The main issue is related to the water and what additional wells will do to the existing well capacities. P&Z is responsible for ensuring there are sufficient utilities provided to properties. Phase 3 is requesting approval for 247 units. There are a number of things, i.e., fencing, roads, etc., that have not been addressed as per the already approved plan. The next meeting will be next Tuesday at 7:15pm at the Grange to further discuss the Banner proposal.

c. Youth group permit and process

Mr. Smith has not heard anything further on the permit. Mr. Gelston asked Mr. Smith to discuss with Mr. Walter.

d. Update on Sprecher property swap

Mr. Smith noted the swap should be done soon. The town attorney is addressing.

e. Dean parking lot location

Mr. Smith noted that nothing has been done on the parking yet, but will follow up with the Public Works.

f. Linear Trail footbridge update

Mr. Smith noted that he spoke with Public Works and Dutch Oil regarding the newly discovered oil tank on Boot Rock. He talked with Bruce Dutch who measured and discovered there is 29 inches of oil within the tank. It has been pumped out, so the potential environmental hazard has been addressed. Dutch was supposed to pull the tank out but that has been delayed until Monday due to the rain. Mr. Smith will meet with the Facilities Manager to discuss the clean up. The cost of the tank and oil removal is \$5400.

g. Defining difference between “preserve” and other designations

Tabled to next meeting.

5. New Business

a. New bills

Shagbark, \$43.51, for stewardship supplies

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

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

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c. 2016 Meeting schedule

Motion by Mr. Gelston to accept 2016 meeting schedule as presented, seconded by Ms. Carlson, unanimously approved.

6. Next meeting – January 5, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith has formally notified Tiffany Quinn that Park and Rec can be the sole steward of the Nichols property. Ms. Quinn agreed with the change in steward owner.

Mr. Ventres put together signage posting with generic language around hunting regulations for posting on all properties that allow hunting.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gelston to adjourn at 9:36pm, seconded by Mr. Gelston, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- 2016 schedule of meetings
- The Habitat Fall 2015, volume 27, number 4