

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT CONSERVATION
COMMISSION MEETING**

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

January 5, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at 7:35 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Marilyn Gleeson, Rob Smith, Joe Zaid, Paul Sienna, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 12/1/15

4b. added water to level and added an "s" to need.

4b. added "Mr. Gelston was of the understanding"

4f. Updated last sentence to read "The cost of the tank and oil removal is \$5400."

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston provided an update. The Davison boundary has been marked. The red trail has been marked as well. Two view vistas have been laid out and marked with ribbons by Mr. Gelston and Mr. Sienna. It was suggested that the CC members visit and review the vistas to provide feedback prior to any tree cutting. The deed specifically calls for the vista viewshed to be protected from overgrowth. Mr. Gelston contracted a forester to find out if there is any interest in cutting firewood. The Zeleznicky property needs focus as well. Mr. Gelston would like to have another Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee; it's scheduled for 7:00 at the Gelston's residence on January 21st. Mr. Gelston walked Chapman Pond recently – the trail is well worn, but the road in is very bad and not passable for most vehicles.

Outreach and Promotion: The Duncan preserve map needs to be created.

Volunteer Activism: Ms. Gleeson talked with Ms. Merrow, who is going to learn more about the Davison property in an upcoming discussion with Walt Golec.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – There is not much to report. January 12 is the next hearing on the Banner project.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted there was not much discussed at the Dec. 8 P&Z meeting. Ms.

Gleeson noted the Shagbark septic system has been hooked up.

- c. Youth group permit and process
Mr. Smith has not heard anything about the youth group permit and will follow up on it.
- d. Update on Sprecher property swap
Mr. Smith discussed the Sprecher swap with Mr. Ventres, who is waiting for a response from the Town Attorney. There will need to be a vote at a town meeting to accept it.
- e. Dean parking lot location
Mr. Smith drove down to the property, and nothing has been addressed yet.
- f. Linear Trail footbridge update
Mr. Smith showed photos of the bridge to the CC members; it is about 50% complete. There is another work party scheduled for this Thursday. A video production is in process to show the work as it was completed.
- g. Defining difference between “preserve” and other designations
Mr. Smith noted there are 2 preserves (Boot Rock and Patrell), and the CC has informally stated that there would be no timber cutting on these 2 preserves due to the geological features and proximity to wetlands. Going forward, all preserves should be evaluated for management and their important resources for conservation. Hunting is allowed on all open space. Other open space tracts of land are either called parcels or properties or are not named at all. The CC needs to determine what the constraints are for preserves. They then must determine if there are other properties requiring the designation of preserve in addition to the ones already in existence. Ms. Gleeson conducted quite a bit of research on preserves and reserves and has provided good definitions the CC can use for open space designations. She will provide the definition to Ms. Goyette, who will provide to the CC for discussion at the next meeting.

5. New Business

- a. New bills
No new bills to review.

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

- b. Public Comment
No public attended.

- c. 2016-2017 budget
Discussion ensued as to the next year’s stewardship needs such that proper funding can be included in the 2016-2017 budget. The work outlined included: purchase of additional signs, chain saw work, additional map printings, and creation of parking lots. The CC must receive a determination from the Town around the types and levels of machines can and cannot be used by volunteers when conducting work parties on Town Owned open space. There is approximately \$8,000 left on the current budget.

The remaining work for this year:

- \$3000 worth of gravel on the Harris property parking lots
- \$2000 worth of gravel at Dean for parking lots

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- \$1000 for signs and tags for Lena, Dean, Lord Wellington, Davison, Zeleznicky, Shugrue
- \$1000 for kiosk at Patrell
- Patrell Survey needs to be redone to remark the boundary with the house
- Maps – EDC will address the cost for the next map printing

2016-2017 budget needs to include:

- \$6000 for parking lot at Shugrue, Zeleznicky, Lena and bridges needed at Lena and Harris
- \$2500 for field and brush walk behind mower

During the Jan. 21 Stewardship meeting, there will be discussion to finalize the budget.

d. Use agreement for Goodwin Trail

There was concern about the stewardship responsibilities of the Goodwin Trail as it crosses a number of different open space organizations. Mr. Smith provided an outline of the draft agreement created for the Town of East Haddam's responsibilities for the portion of the trail that is within the Town. Ms. Merrow asked a note be added to the statement, "the trail crosses public lands or byways", to make it clear this document does not pertain to private lands. Transition use signs will denote if there's a change in rules (like moving from one property that allows no hunting to entering a property that does allow hunting). With the noted addition, there are no other concerns.

Motion by Ms. Gelston to add the additional language to the existing document, seconded by Mr. Zaid, unanimously approved.

6. Next meeting – February 2, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Dutch Oil removed the newly discovered underground oil tank and did the soil sampling as required on Patrell. Discussion ensued around this topic. Additional remediation may be remediated and Public Works will be contacted as needed.

The Board of Selectmen representative is now Ernie Malavasi. Ms. Goyette will add him to the email distribution list.

The CLCC conference is in March this year; Mr. Zaid attended last year. The CC is a member and will renew its membership for \$200.

Motion by Mr. Zaid to renew the CLCC membership for \$200, seconded by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

8. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- Richard H. Goodwin Trail Roles and Responsibilities