

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

December 10, 2014

January 6, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, at 7:13 PM at the Gelston residence. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. New Business

a. Trail mapping

Ms. Gleeson is going to River COG to get help with the mapping tool on Thursday, Dec. 11. She showed several examples of maps of trails she has already worked and mapped out. She will have further information after meeting with the River COG representative. Once the mapping is complete, then the trail guide creation can get underway. Ms. Gleeson suggested limiting the verbiage about each parcel to maximize the space for trail maps. The details on each property can be placed on the website. Mr. Sienna noted that it would be good to have elevations noted somehow. Ms. Gleeson showed some examples of binders that could be used to hold the maps. Much discussion ensued around how to make the maps small enough to be placed within one's pocket and how to package the maps. The members discussed how distribution needs to be handled. Mr. Gelston noted that we want to have people who walk the trail to have maps and see how accessible open space really is.

b. Trail Guide Layout and Printing

There is a need for both electronic and paper versions of the maps available to all hikers. Mr. Smith noted that there needs to be a multi-pronged distribution approach. The discussion covered a 3-pronged approach: purchase booklet with all maps at a few locations around town, purchase individual maps at town hall, offer single maps at trail head and a single map posted at a kiosk and post all maps at the web site for downloading. There is also a need to create a booklet. Getting the maps online is also important. To make the individual maps available to the public at the town hall, there needs to be a presentation mechanism. The map size needs to be 8.5" x 14" and foldable with a watermark background. Total length of trail needs to be included; scale is needed too. The trails need to be in color (maps and pictures). The verbiage will need to be reviewed to ensure it's still valid. For the existing trail guide, the directions should be bulleted and pulled out of the history/narrative portion. For the maps at the site, the paper needs to be heavy grade, but not nautical grade. Mr. Gelston showed an example of a state map that can serve as a guide for the maps at the trail head. In discussing

the website, Ms. Gleeson showed the Old Lyme website and suggested that the listing of the properties with the maps is very easy to use. Ms. Goyette offered to help Ms. Gleeson get connected with the Town's webmaster to discuss adding information to the CC website. Ms. Gleeson also suggested using FaceBook as a good way to provide information to the public; Ms. Gleeson and Ms. Goyette will look into this option. There is also a need to ensure the web link needs to be shared wide and far with other land conservation associations.

c. Saturday Work Afternoon Tasks and Schedule

There has been so much work accomplished this year. At Hatch Lot, the green trail needs to be finished. Rose Farm trails are done, and maps need to be made of red, yellow (which may be changed to orange) and white. Ms. Gleeson will now walk those trails and get them mapped. For immediate work, the Davison property lines need to be blazed as do Roaring Brook and Sabine. Sabine is the first property that needs to be addressed as the scouts are working on a project out there. Mr. Smith will get a map of the Sabine property. The next work party will be at Sabine at 1pm, Dec. 13.

d. Growing the Volunteer Pool

The Boy Scouts have offered to help with work parties. They are now included on the distribution list.

e. Other

Mr. Smith will ask Mr. Ventres how the 12/9 Board of Finance meeting went.

4. Announcements and other discussion

None.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Merrow to adjourn at 9:26 pm, seconded by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Map of Banningwood and Salem Land Trust Darling Road Preserve
- Old Lyme Land Trust website example