

Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission

January 14, 2015

Adopted February 3, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 7:10 PM at the Gelston residence. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Paul Sienna, Todd Gelston, Marilyn Gleeson, Joe Zaid.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. New Business

a. Trail mapping

Ms. Gleeson noted that the mapping is on hold as the Garmin is completely full. She has the new software as there was a 60-day free trial. She is working with RiverCOG on Friday and will download everything on the Garmin and free up space. Nichols is a big property that still needs to be mapped, and there are about 5 others that need to be mapped (Olde Field, Haagenson, Ayers, Jezek, Sabine). The mapping is in excellent shape. Ms. Gleeson asked questions about Duncan, Bernstein and Hidden Valley Farm properties. Dean and Harris still need to be mapped. There are several trails that cross properties. Some thought must be done to ensure people do not get lost or confused when walking a trail on one property that turns into another trail on another property – on the trees and on the map. When doing future trails, strategic thought is needed to ensure colors make sense. “Think like a hiker” needs to be the focus for future trails. Sabine does not have a trail yet, but one could be added quickly. Babcock is included in the guide but is state property so conversation ensued about whether state parks should be included or not. The members discussed not including the state park maps but will note, in the appropriate area, that there are state parks with trails for hiking.

b. Trail Guide Layout and Printing

Ms. Gleeson noted the maps will have a water mark background and a legend included as well. Ms. Gleeson visited Lyme Town Hall to get copies of their maps – they have an excellent format for color, layout, etc. The group would like to add where there is a prominent peak and place an elevation marker to denote the change in elevation. There are map different sizes, which will work well for the different sized properties – vary the maps with the size and complexity of the trail/property. Ms. Gleeson provided a copy of the current write up on the properties and asked for feedback. She will include information on hunting and horseback riding. Ms. Gleeson still feels comfortable with the April 15th date for releasing the new trail guide maps and information.

c. Saturday Work Afternoon Tasks and Schedule

Mr. Gelston provided a list of activities

- Hatch Lot parking lot needs swales to be put into place, as well as boulders to keep people within the boundaries.
- Hatch Lot needs a trail tagged from Parker Road. The green trail is not marked well too.
- Harris needs signs to show where trails start. Parking needs to be better delineated.
- Dean trails need to be remarked as soon as possible, and the No Trespassing signs need to be addressed.
- Chapal Farm- Patrell – the house next to it is now parking a truck and trailer on the parking lot, so the boundary needs to be marked. The white and blue trail run concurrent so need to be marked as such.
- The gravel on the Patrell needs to be spread, and the old garage floor needs to be leveled out.
- On Rose Farm Homestead, there are trails that have been cut in by the townspeople and they need to be marked.
- On Rose Farm Homestead, the concrete monument still needs to be installed. Mr. Gelston will talk with Mr. Smith about this.
- On Rose Farm Homestead, the property line next to Charlie Farrow's land needs to be reestablished due to being buried by the effluent pulled out of Charlie Farrow's pond. Mr. Smith will have to discuss with Jim Ventres.
- On Rose Farm, a footbridge from the red to the yellow trail needs to be installed. There also needs to be a horse crossing completed as well.
- On the Davison property, the property lines need to be blazed.
- Roaring Brook sign has been installed, but the property has to be blazed.

d. Growing the Volunteer Pool

Mr. Gelston wants to use the sandwich boards to advertise the work parties, during the day to showcase the work and see if more volunteers can be recruited.

Ms. Gleeson suggested a FaceBook page to announce work parties and such, as that could further publicize the work being done.

e. Other

More tags are needed.

Mr. Zaid and Mr. Gelston tagged the Sabine property.

There is a need for another kiosk at the boundary of the Dean property and Hatch Lot.

4. Announcements and other discussion

Next work day is Saturday, January 17, at Davison property.

5. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette

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Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Copy of information regarding open space properties