

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

February 26, 2015

Adopted March 19, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 7:08 PM at the Annex. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Paul Sienna, Todd Gelston, Marilyn Gleeson, Joe Zaid, Rob Smith, Charlotte Gelston, Sue Merrow arrived 7:40.

2. Approval of Agenda

Add letter of the EHCC to the DEEP for a grant as the first agenda item.

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

3. New Business

a. EHLT grant to DEEP

EHLT is requesting a grant from the DEEP to purchase 12 acres off Southwinds and Falls Bashan. An adjacent land owner is donating 18 acres. There will be an additional ½ acre donated to connect the two parcels. With these open space additions, there will now be a core connecting Colchester Turnpike to Great Hillwood. There are other parcels under discussions that could provide connection to the elementary school. The EHLT is asking the EHCC to write a letter in support of the grant. A letter has already been drafted, and Mr. Gelston will sign and provide to Mr. Smith.

Motion by Ms. Gelston to accept the letter as drafted in support of the DEEP grant with Mr. Gelston signing. Second by Mr. Smith and unanimously approved.

b. Trail mapping

Ms. Gleeson reviewed a number of maps with the subcommittee, who applauded her work. For the Ballahack Preserve map, Mr. Sienna volunteered to walk the boat launch driveway so that it can be added to the map. Mr. Smith will reach out to Liz Robinson of The Nature Conservancy to invite her to attend the next CC meeting, so she can hear about the trail mapping activities. The CC would like to discuss with Ms. Robinson the need for road repair to allow people to access the Chapman Pond parking lot. There needs to be discussion around the number of maps printed; there may be a need to print in batches. Mr. Zaid volunteered to walk the trails missing from the Hatch Lot map so those can be added to the current map. Mr. Smith will send another letter to the Connecticut Audubon Society on behalf of the EHLT offering to steward the Haagenson property on Creek Row.

c. Trail Guide Text

For State Park maps, there will be a reference to where those trail maps can be found.

d. Trail Guide Layout and Printing

Ms. Gleeson provided an example of the paper that will be used to print trail maps.

e. Schedule for Trail Guide Completion and Distribution

Ms. Gleeson is still aiming to publish maps in April 2015. The maps will be provided to the public at the Town Hall and possibly other locations. There is a need for a display to be purchased to house the maps; Mr. Sienna will research display options. Discussion ensued about denoting where the maps will be available at the Town Hall and on each property in an article for Events magazine. The sandwich boards can be used to publicize publication of the trail maps. The display needs to be flexible to the area that it's in. Ms. Gelston will scout out what would work within town businesses to determine where trail maps can be provided. Ms. Gleeson suggested posting the trail maps at the State Parks.

f. Saturday Work Afternoon Tasks and Schedule

Tabled due to the snow on the ground.

g. Winter Use of Trails

Mr. Gelston noted that some of the trails are absolutely wonderful places to snow shoe in the winter time, but the parking lots are not plowed.

h. Other

The tree that hangs over Mill Road still has not been cut down and must be addressed at some point.

4. Old Business

a. Boy Scout projects

Mr. Gelston talked with Mr. Buhl whose son is still interested in working on an Eagle Scout project. He will attend the March CC meeting and provide an overview of his project.

b. Status of the EHCC's request to the EHPW Department for Work

Tabled until the next regular CC meeting.

5. Announcements and other discussion

Nothing to note.

6. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Ballahack Preserve trail map

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- Burnham Brook Preserve trail map
- Chapal Farm trail map
- Chapman Pond Preserve trail map
- Sheepskin Hollow Preserve trail map
- Hatch Lot trail map