

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

June 8, 2015

Adopted July 7, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Monday, June 08, 2015 at 7:12 PM at the Gelston residence. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Added future work plans under old business.

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

3. New Business

a. Budget review

There is only \$10,000 capital due to the budget change made last year. There is about \$6,000 left to be spent. About \$4,600 is needed for the Eightmile River bridge; Mr. Smith will order those materials. Mr. Smith will discuss with Mr. Nemergut getting the bid out for the steel supports needed for the bridge. The kiosk stands will cost about \$400. A few loads of gravel are also needed, which will likely use up the remaining funds. Ms. Gleeson noted that it may make sense to purchase a new GPS to enable future mapping to be done easily. Mr. Gelston agreed with Ms. Gleeson; Ms. Gleeson will conduct some research around GPS units. Mr. Zaid suggested Tremble as a good potential, but it may not be compatible with the mapping program. Ms. Gleeson will check with the UCONN Extension Center to see what their GIS person recommends for a GPS unit. Mr. Gelston noted that Ms. Lunt from Public Works reviewed the Hatch Lot trees and noted they require a contractor to be hired to take them down. Mr. Smith noted there is money in the budget to address this. Mr. Gelston will call Ms. Lunt and ask her to move forward with removing the 3 trees that must be taken down.

Motion by Mr. Smith to authorize Ms. Gleeson to spend up to \$600 on a new GPS unit. She will get final approval from the CC prior to purchasing. Second by Mr. Sienna and unanimously approved.

b. Kiosk needs for map display

Ms. Gleeson noted the Hatch Lot kiosk is 32" by 63" so the map could be 22.5" by 35". She asked what else needs to be posted on the kiosk. Mr. Zaid noted that adjacent property maps should be posted as well. Ms. Gleeson suggested posting history, trail facts, permitted activities, a "for more information" contact as well as emergency numbers and trail guidelines. For Hatch, there will need to be a note that camping is by permit only. Mr. Smith suggested putting the Hatch Lot map on the front with history and trail facts. The rest of the

information will be on the back of the kiosk along with a printed map of the adjacent properties.

Rose Farm kiosks are 33”by 42” with the map size being 22.5” by 17.5”. Mr. Smith suggested making a larger map with the back of the kiosk hosting all the other information. Mr. Sienna suggested adding the MyTownTrails QR to the kiosks as well.

Mr. Smith will order the lexan to cover the maps and act as a moisture barrier.

4. Old Business

a. Map reviews

Ms. Gelston will pick up the map display units. Ms. Gleeson showed all the new maps. Mr. Smith noted that the EDC and EHLT may provide funding for the next printing, if requested. Ms. Gelston volunteered to restock all the turnstiles with maps, which will be located at Nathan Hale Pharmacy, Gillette’s Castle, Ballek’s and in the Town Clerk’s office. Mr. Gelston theorizes that by mid-July another printing may be needed. Mr. Smith will have the maps posted on the EHLT website. Ms. Goyette will ask Linda Z. at the Town Hall to remove the old trail guide and post the new maps provided by Ms. Gleeson.

b. Future work plans

Mr. Gelston reported what happened on Friday at the Chapal Farm property. Mr. Gelston, Mr. Smith, Beth Lund and Rich Toolan (maintenance supervisor, Public Works, Town of East Haddam) arrived at Chapal farm to discover ATVs had been traversing the property. There was a RI car, a trailer filled with junk and a junk car all on the property. The police were called to report the activity. The ATV owner was fined by the police for illegal activity. Mr. Smith met the surveyor the next day and could not find the pins so the property requires a new survey. The surveyor will go out and resurvey as soon as possible, as Mr. Smith now has the map. The good news to report is that Public Works is going to remove the old garage foundation and spread the gravel, perhaps starting it tomorrow. Mr. Smith noted that two signs are needed to denote which driveway is private and which one is for the preserve. Public Works will also address Hatch Lot tree removal, grade and drop processed gravel along the parking lot and line up rocks to prevent people from inadvertently parking in the wetlands.

Mr. Smith has to get a permit from DOT to address the Rose Farm parking lot apron. Public Works requires a permit before any work can be done to get site line approval.

Harris requires boundary marking, as the pins have been located. Another trail could be added on the Harris property off Shanaghan Road.

The blue and green trails require work on the Hatch Lot. The field needs to be mowed. Mr. Gelston will call Rick Shea to get the field mowed.

5. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith will follow up with Charlie Farrow about the brush pile and pond sediment that were placed on Town property.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Smith to adjourn at 8:53 pm, seconded by Mr. Zaid, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, June 8, 2015

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Trails, Trail Guidelines sheet