

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

August 4, 2015

Adopted September 1, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, at 7:38 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 7/7/15

1. Changed time from 7: to 7:32.

4. changed Mr. Gleeson to Ms. Gleeson

4e. spelled property correctly

5g. added of camp stay to make the duration clear

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

4. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee Minutes 7/30/15

Motion by Mr. Sienna to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Zaid. Discussion ensued. Unanimously approved. Mr. Smith abstained.

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Tabled as Mr. Gelston was not in attendance.

Outreach and Promotion: No update, maps were discussed as a separate agenda item.

Volunteer Activism: No update.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – No update as Mr. Gelston was not in attendance.

P&Z – Mr. Smith will attend the August 11 meeting where Trowbridge property and Disc Golf will be discussed, as Ms. Gleeson cannot attend that meeting.

c. Linear Trail update

Mr. Smith noted that most of the pressure treated lumber has been purchased. The building inspector has reviewed and approved plans, drawn by Roger Nemergut. The first set of plans has been provided to a steel company for an estimate for the steel needed. The preliminary work will begin in the near future. The \$10,000 National Park Service grant has been

extended to the end of the fiscal year, and therefore allows additional time to complete the bridge.

d. Disc Golf

The Nichols property and the Town Beach property are both being evaluated by Disc Golf authorities to determine the best property for the course. It will be discussed at the August 11 P&Z meeting.

e. Youth group permit and process

Permit has been updated and has been provided to the Selectmen's Office for review.

f. Reappointments

Mr. Smith noted that everyone up for reappointment has been reappointed.

g. Scout presentation on Middle School trails (expansion of Ventola Nature Trail)

Mr. Smith met with the kids who outlined where they wanted to place the trail. They are using what was previously flagged. The two scouts involved were not able to attend to provide an update.

6. New Business

a. New bills

Shagbark bill \$389.66 for paint, routing bit, pressure treated lumber and one cross-cut blade.

Motion by Ms. Gelston to pay the bill, seconded by Ms. Carlson, unanimously approved.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

c. Update on Sprecher property swap

Mr. Smith has no update.

d. Dean parking lot location

A parking area needs to be established to provide better parking as current parking options are very limited and tight. Mr. Smith will evaluate an appropriate parking option with DPW and the Deans and provide an update at the next meeting.

e. Chapman Pond stewardship

Mr. Sienna noted the CC is providing maps for the trail, and the road to get to it is basically impassible. There is also no sign denoting the property. Mr. Sienna requested that Mr. Smith write a letter from the CC asking The Nature Conservancy to address the road maintenance needed and to post signs denoting property name. The previous requested trail maintenance has been addressed.

f. Land trade for Rose Farm and Ray of Light

Mr. Smith had no update to provide as he has not been invited to attend the Ray of Light Board meeting to discuss the proposed land trade.

- g. Ordering of new sign for Olde Field and Ballahack
These properties are both Land Trust properties, and Mr. Smith has signs that can be posted.
- h. Ayers parking
Ayers is a Land Trust property, who is providing signs for the property.
- i. Map printing: Burnham Brook, Ballahack, Jezek, Sheepskin Hollow, Olde Field & Hatch Lot
Ms. Gleeson noted that the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee would like to place an order to replenish the map supplies. About 1300 additional maps (in total) need to be ordered for the properties. In addition, Ms. Gleeson will reorder another 200 maps for Harris. Mr. Smith noted that the EHLT will fund \$1000 for the next printing. Mr. Smith noted there is money in the budget to cover the rest of the printing. The map holder at Gillette's Castle could be moved to Staehley's, Mr. Smith will move it. The Town Hall holder will eventually be removed from the Town Hall and moved to Wrasslin' Cats.
- j. Requesting access to the CC website
Ms. Gleeson has double checked, and the Town's website has not been updated with the new maps. There is no option to provide access to the Town's website to a non-Town employee to keep the CC site updated. Mr. Smith will discuss with Mr. Gelston to see if there is a way to address the situation.

7. Next meeting – September 1, at The River House.

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith noted the Rose Farm DOT permit has been returned. Mr. Smith now has to have Ms. Lunt review the sight lines at the site.

The CC discussed moving the Harris signs. Mr. Smith noted that the signs mark the parking areas for the open space. The parking has not been addressed as the road improvement under consideration last year was to address the parking areas along with the road improvement. That has not occurred yet. Mr. Smith suggested adding Trailhead Parking under the existing signs to denote the parking areas. Mr. Smith also suggested that there be a kiosk built at each of the trail heads. Mr. Zaid will build the kiosks, and they will be smaller to hold the Lexan the CC already has possession of. Ms. Gleeson reviewed the kiosks needed as Mr. Smith did not attend the Forestry sub-committee meeting to hear the discussion. Ms. Gleeson suggested that the Sheepskin Hollow map needs to be printed bigger for the kiosk there. There is a need for 2 kiosks immediately and thus maps will need to be printed. They will be ordered once the kiosks are built and installed. Mr. Smith will provide electronic versions of the kiosk plans to Mr. Zaid. The bigger maps (11" by 17") for Dean can be printed immediately; two are needed and they must be laminated as well.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gleeson to adjourn at 9:16pm, seconded by Mr. Zaid, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary