

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

November 9, 2015

Adopted December 1, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Monday, November 9, 2015, at 7:30 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Joe Zaid, Marilyn Gleeson, Rob Smith, Sue Merrow, Todd Gelston, Paul Sienna – arrived 7:46.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 10/6/15

4.a. Added a “t” to “not” allowed.

4.h. Added the “t” to the “EightMile”.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted that quite a bit of work has been completed. The last work party focused on marking the boundary of the Lena property. The bridge on the Patrell has had quite a bit of work done to it. Mr. Gelston spent Sunday morning, 11/7/15, with the Disc Golf crew on the Nichols property.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow will look into sending some open space-related articles to the new East Haddam news. Ms. Gleeson is working on the Davison Property map. Ms. Gleeson has a copy of the deed and noted that there are several stewardship items to address that were outlined in the deed.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – No report to provide as Mr. Gelston did not attend the last meeting.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted St. Stephens has put a permit in for occasional leasing of their existing kitchen as a commercial kitchen. Grandview Campgrounds is adding 7 more sites with a buffer of trees. New England Hatchery will have a Department of Agriculture review.

For Shagbark, the septic is being finished. Four Root Farm at 257 Tater Hill Road (the old Miller property) has requested to build another house on the property. Mr. Gelston noted there is a hearing tomorrow about Banner Lodge.

c. Youth group permit and process

Mr. Smith noted there is no update to provide at this time.

- d. Update on Sprecher property swap  
Mr. Smith noted the property swap is not completed yet, and he will continue to follow up on the matter.
- e. Dean parking lot location  
Mr. Smith does not have a status of the Dean parking.
- f. Requesting access to the CC website  
Ms. Gleeson noted that she is not going to get access to the website. The current frame is not changeable. Linda Z. will work with Ms. Gleeson to post pictures and other material.
- g. Linear Trail footbridge update  
Mr. Smith noted the west abutment has been poured. The steel has been ordered, and the engineer reported it will be delivered within 2 weeks. The 2 west sections will be addressed first from the Boot Rock piece. EHLT has paid for the 4 loads of gravel and 5 loads of concrete used. The old spillway has been fixed. Now the team has to determine how to get the center section in place. There is work that must be done for concrete work on the east side as well. Mr. Smith wants to paint the steel prior to installation. The date to get the bridge work completed is Dec. 31, 2015. There will be an event in the spring to celebrate the bridge grand opening.

5. New Business

- a. New bills  
Curtin Construction, \$900 for gravel.  
Motion by Mr. Gelston to pay for the bill, seconded by Ms. Mellow, unanimously approved.
- b. Public Comment  
No public attended.
- c. Hunting on town-owned open space  
As everyone is aware, there are changes to the hunting regulations on private property to allow Sunday hunting. Mr. Smith noted that the East Haddam hunters are very strong supporters of open space in the Town, however, he is proposing keeping the existing standard in place that there is no hunting on East Haddam open space on Sundays. There are no further restrictions being considered or changes. Hunters have Monday through Saturday to hunt, and hikers have Sunday to hike with no hunting.  
  
Motion by Mr. Zaid to allow hunting from Monday through Saturday only during designated hunting seasons on East Haddam open space where hunting is permitted, seconded by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.
- d. Defining difference between “preserve” and other designations  
Mr. Smith asked for volunteers to create the designation definitions. There are 2 properties that are designated as preserves. Preserves typically indicate restrictions. For the CC, the primary consideration on what makes a preserve a preserve is no logging is allowed. Ms.

Gleeson volunteered to conduct some research on the distinctions in the terms – preserve, parcel and property.

6. Next meeting – December 1, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith noted that Rose Farm Homestead needs to be mowed and it will need to be mowed several times during the year to keep the weeds down.

Mr. Smith noted that Rose Farm Homestead now has an apron and a gravel parking lot. The permit has been provided.

Mr. Smith noted he investigated the oil fill pipe and oil tank, discovering the tank still has fuel oil within it. Mr. Smith will talk with Dutch Oil to get the tank pumped and will have to determine how to get the tank removed.

Mr. Smith will order solid orange surveyor vests for folks to use when working.

Mr. Smith noted the Harris property needs to have parking lots created. The signs that show the trail heads will be posted.

Ms. Gleeson noted the QRs for the maps should be posted where maps are located. She will survey all the locations to note where a post is needed near the trailhead map holder and the QR and recycle information.

Mr. Smith asked if a trail kiosk should be posted on Patrell, which the CC noted would be a good idea.

Mr. Gelston attended the Mosig brothers' Eagle Scout ceremony and gave a short speech thanking them for their service. Mr. Smith noted that the CC should send certificates to the scouts who have completed a project and became Eagle Scouts. Ms. Goyette will work on creating a certificate for the CC to provide.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gleeson to adjourn at 9:24pm, seconded by Ms. Mellow, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

- Conservation Commission 2 year terms
- Reappointment letters for Mr. Smith, Ms. Carlson, Ms. Mellow, Mr. Gelston, and Mr. Sienna