

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

August 2, 2016

Adopted September 7, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016, at 7:37 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Sue Merrow, Marilyn Gleeson, Joe Zaid, Paul Sienna, Peggy Carlson, Todd Gelston – departed 9:15, Charlotte Gelston – departed 9:15

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 7/5/16

4.a. Stewardship - changed the Dean trail sentence to be clearer as to the meaning.

4.a. Outreach – updated to show that \$500 was not offered by the EDC

4.b Add management to P&Z update

4.e. Changed the description of what Mr. Scribner fixed. Spelled Erlandson correctly.

4.f. Changed was to were.

4.g. Changed the reference to the orange trail. Changed the reference to the red trail to be clearer. Updated Patrell blue trail reference.

5.c. Changed Selectmen to First Selectman.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted the fence is installed on Patrell and the blue trail has been marked. The boundary was also marked. This Saturday is the next work party and will address work on the Harris property. The red trail needs to be addressed and signs need to be moved.

Outreach and Promotion: The new Events magazine is out to the townspeople. Mr. Gelston suggested an article in Events about the Four Town Trail and asked for a map of the trail to be included.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston did not attend the last meeting so had no update.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson did not attend the last meeting as it was cancelled and was unable to make the prior meeting. No update. Mr. Smith talked about the subdivision at the end of Rolling Hill Road. Mr. Gelston will attend the P&Z meeting during which the subject will be discussed. Ms. Gleeson will not be able to attend.

- c. Youth group permit and process  
No update. Will remove from agenda.
  - d. Update on Sprecher property swap  
No update. Will remove from agenda.
  - e. Dean parking lot location  
No update. Will remove from agenda.
  - f. Map reprinting needs  
No update. Will remove from agenda.
  - g. ATV ordinance  
Nothing new to report as there's a new First Selectman who is just getting started on the job.
5. New Business
- a. New bills  
Auger rental for \$64.13 to reimburse Mr. Sienna.

Motion by Ms. Gelston to authorize the chairman to reimburse Mr. Sienna. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

- b. Making Patrell and the Eightmile Bridge access ADA compliant  
Mr. Smith discussed that Patrell is accessible only if a handicapped person has help to navigate the inclines and declines; they are too steep. Mr. Smith is going to have the property surveyed to see if there is a way to get a truly ADA compliant trail to the footbridge. It would be a nice option to provide to the townspeople and other hikers.
  - c. Geocaching on Patrell  
Mr. Smith noted there is a need to create a policy around geocaching. Mr. Gelston suggested doing some research to see if there's a national geocaching organization. Ms. Merrow will research the topic and provide information at the next CC meeting. Mr. Zaid will meet with the person who requested the geocaching location.
  - d. Offer of stewardship help on Lena property  
Sam Peckham reached out to request the CC include him in the Lena property stewardship. He has a tractor and has offered to help. Mr. Sienna noted that if the trails are flagged and marked, the CC would welcome the help. The property needs to be walked with any volunteers prior to any work being attempted. Mr. Gelston will coordinate meeting with Mr. Peckham and the Tater Hill neighbor who is also interested in stewardship.
  - e. Public Comment  
No public attended.
6. Next meeting – September 6, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith received a request to use the Roaring Brook parking lot for the East Lyme Bike and BBQ event on Oct. 1 from 7am to 11am. Mr. Smith will request a proof of insurance and a rider to cover the town. Mr. Smith will notify Linda Z in the Selectmen's Office noting that the CC approves this use and there is a need for proof of insurance.

Mr. Smith notified the CC that he received a request from EverSource for access on Roaring Brook to replace the poles. EverSource installed the parking lot and the road to the powerlines is already there. Mr. Smith will meet with EverSource on Thursday morning to further discuss their upcoming work.

Mr. Smith noted the East Haddam Library System is having an open house on Sept. 24, 9am to 1pm. Mr. Smith noted the Transfer Station committee, Street Lights and Safety committee and Building Code Board of Appeals are not active, as per a report from the Town Hall.

Ms. Gleeson updated the CC on MyTownTrails. She sent an email to MyTownTrails to get the new maps updated. She received a response denoting the developer is not going to support the app any longer as he is not making money with it. Ms. Gleeson noted the CC needs to think about next steps.

Ms. Goyette will add to the agenda next month for further discussion.

Mr. Smith notified the CC that Rt. 82 bridge over Hemlock Valley Brook will have repair work starting soon.

Mr. Smith notified the CC that the Colchester Land Trust is looking to protect 200 acres off of Buckley Hill Road in the Eightmile and Salmon River watersheds. The Colchester Land Trust is looking for donations to help fund the purchase.

Mr. Smith noted that \$1900 was given back from the capital budget for the last fiscal year.

Mr. Smith is meeting with Fox Hopyard contacts to tie the Linear Trail into the open space at Fox Hopyard which will tie into the open space on the Lena property. Mr. Smith has asked Mr. Ventres to determine the status of Babcock Road for use within the trail system too.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Email on Making Patrell and the Eightmile Bridge access ADA compliant
- Email on Geocaching on Patrell