

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

October 4, 2016

Adopted November 1, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, at 7:28 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 9/7/16

Updated header to change August to September date

4. a. added “Regarding the Harris property,” to clarify the opening sentence

4.d. changed National Park Service to DEEP

7. Updated section related to the Linear Trail

7. changed *has to* to *should*

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Regarding the priority list, Mr. Gelston noted there have been a number of work parties addressing the priority list. The latest project is cleaning up the Rose Farm parcel. The east side red trail has been clipped and trimmed. Additional red paint was added to the markings. Now the west side is the focus. Mr. Smith has been marking out where the bridge can go within the property. Ms. Gleeson will provide Mr. Zaid with the maps to post on the east side. The next priority after Rose Farm will be the Lena property. The boundaries have been tagged and blazed; trails need to be marked. Sam Peckham has offered to help with clearing the trails. There was discussion that the next priority should be Sabine to address the bridge that needs to be moved. There may be 2 work parties needed to complete the Sabine work. Mr. Gelston noted the Oct 16th work party will be at Rose Farm to finish the work on the west side. The Oct. 30th work party will be at Sabine to address the bridge and trail work needs.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow noted she focused on Rose Farm in the Events magazine. The Eightmile River RiverFest is scheduled for 10/15 from 1-4pm. Ms. Gleeson shared her thoughts on how she is going to showcase the maps at the RiverFest. Mr. Smith noted the East Haddam Land Trust table will be adjacent to the CC’s table.

Volunteer Activism: Ms. Merrow noted that the RiverFest will be a good event to recruit new volunteers.

- b. IWWC and P&Z updates
IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted there is not much under discussion at IWWC. There are a number of people who are trying to expand/fix their Bashan Lake access. Regarding the Banner sub-division, it is on the agenda at P&Z on 10/11 but has not gone before IWWC again.
P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted there is a Public Hearing for Banner coming up. P&Z is going to look at signage again. They have denoted there are some problems with expired signs not being picked up, etc.
- c. ATV ordinance
Nothing to report.
- d. Making Patrell and the Eightmile Bridge access ADA compliant
Mr. Smith noted Mr. Nemergut is working on the engineering for the trail. Regarding a grant, there is no clarity as to when the grants will be awarded, and therefore when the work would happen. Mr. Sienna saw Peter Marteka from the Hartford Courant, and mentioned the ADA trail plans to him.
- e. Update on walk behind mower
Mr. Smith noted he will purchase the heavy duty blade for the new mower. It will be housed in the Town Garage in the Town Office complex. The Selectmen met with CIRMA, the insurance agency, where an issue was raised regarding volunteer training for volunteers working on town-owned space; the CC is working on a resolution.

5. New Business

a. New bills

Shagbark bill, \$252.76, for kiosk materials.

Motion by Mr. Zaid to authorize the chairman to pay the bill. Second by Mr. Gelston and unanimously approved.

Essex Design and Display bill, \$660.00, for signs.

Motion by Ms. Merrow to authorize the chairman to pay the bill. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

b. IBA preserve/reserve inclusion

Mr. Smith provided a map of the IBA (Important Bird Area) and reviewed the Lyme IBA with the members. About ½ of East Haddam is part of the Lyme IBA. It's the largest one in CT and may be one of the largest in the Northeast. Mr. Smith noted the CC could have town properties noted as individual IBAs inside the landscape IBA. An IBA is based on the presence of a local bird that is a species of importance, concern, and/or endangered. International, national/regional, and local are the distinctions. Mr. Smith noted that an IBA designation helps promote the town's open space to birders. The town properties included are Sabine, Town Beach, Lord Wellington, Shugrue, Wolf Tree, Dean, Lena, Hatch, Tater Hill Town Farm, LeFebre, Zeliznicky, Urbanik, and Bernstein on Parker Road. There are no restrictions for being within an IBA. Mr. Smith will notify the State to include all the

properties except for Dean, which is an easement and requires the property owner's permission.

Motion by Ms. Merrow to submit the properties as IBAs within the Lyme IBA. Second by Mr. Zaid, unanimously approved.

c. Rose Farm bridge cost and plan

Mr. Smith brought a scale drawing of the bridge, which is 140 to 200 feet long. It's \$4500 for a 200 foot long bridge. The reason for the difference is the ability to use Ray of Light property or not. If Ray of Light property can be used, the bridge will be 140 feet. Mr. Smith will approach Ray of Light with an updated proposal to put the bridge in place at 140 feet. Mr. Smith will provide the drawings to IWWC for review and approval.

d. Public Comment

No public attended.

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

7. Announcements and other discussion

Ms. Merrow noted that on 10/20, 8:30 – 1:30, there is a Greenway's event, First Annual CT Trails Symposium, will be held at Middlesex Community College. Ms. Merrow will send a copy of the information to the CC members.

The Scouts will be camping 10/22 on Hatch Lot, but will provide additional paperwork per CIRMA. The Selectmen will inform the 4 hunters scheduled to be there that weekend that the property is closed due to the Scouts' camping trip. Mr. Smith will fix the outhouse prior to the camping weekend.

There is an Ed Bills Pond dam removal thank you event on 10/5 to celebrate the event; please attend if you are interested.

Mr. Zaid highlighted to Mr. Smith the line on Shanaghan Road with the word "gate" on it. Northeast Utilities started to install a gate on Shanaghan Road at Petticoat Lane, thinking the property is private property. Mr. Ventres visited the crew and advised them to stop installing the gate, as it is a town road, which they did.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- The Habitat, Summer 2016, volume 28 number 3
- Open Space with Lyme Forest Block 8/2016