

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

November 1, 2016

Adopted December 6, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 7:38 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 10/4/16

4e. changed KERMA to CIRMA

5b. changed over ½ to about ½

5b. removed Hill from Parker Hill Road.

5c. added drawing after scale

7. Changed KERMA to CIRMA

7. changed installed to started to install

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted Rose Farm clean-up is now complete, IWWC plans to visit the site on Sunday, 11/6, to observe the bridge location. Sabine was also the focus during the last work party; much work remains to be done on that property. The walkway to the property is a steep dirt path, and the CC is considering moving the path to make it less steep and thus easier to traverse. The State of CT sign posted at the parking lot, denoting who purchased the property, is faded and hard to read; it must be replaced. The second sign with the map is located off in the woods, and on the other side of the rock wall so must be moved to a better location. Where it is located now requires hikers to climb over the stone wall. Trees were cut down to allow hikers to see the blue trail markers. At the start of the blue trail, there was a tree down that has been cleared. The bridge must still be moved further upstream; a stone abutment must be built on one side. The blue trail requires further work as it's hard to follow. A sign is also needed to show where the road is to show hikers where to find the parking lot. There is no map holder as well as no map of the property yet. Sabine is the focus of the next work party to continue to address the outlined work. Regarding Hatch Lot, Mr. Smith noted a fellow hiker indicated the white trail intersection is clearly marked, after receiving feedback that the intersection is hard to find. Discussion ensued and the Commission decided to install a post at the intersection to denote where the trails are. The CC noted it is best practice to do this going forward to install a post at trail

intersections. Regarding the Hatch Lot, Mr. Smith also noted the outhouse door is now fixed. Mr. Gelston noted that there will be a Stewardship meeting on Dec. 1, at the Gelston residence. Mr. Smith and Mr. Zaid posted the municipal signs on Harris property, as well as East Haddam Open Space. Sign boards have all maps now on them. The sign denoting who purchased the property needs to be reprinted due to some misspellings and clarification on which is municipal section and which is open space.

Outreach and Promotion: The Events magazine should be out shortly.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted they are coming to a site walk on Patrell and Boot Rock parking lot to see the handicap trail plans, Boot Rock proposed parking area as well as a site walk on Rose Farm to view the proposed bridge location.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson attended the last meeting. The Banner proposal was discussed; the real concern was related to fact that if water needs to be trucked in, the residents neighboring Banner would have to pay for the water. Right now the residents just pay for the electricity used for the well pump to pump water out of the well. On Nov 22, the Middle School conversion project will hold a Public Hearing. There is someone interested in purchasing the yellow building next to the Moodus Post Office (Dr. Paardenkooper's house and old office). Ms. Gleeson also noted Mr. Casner has re-raised the AP Gates Road property issue asking for changes to make it a building lot.

c. ATV ordinance

Nothing to report.

d. Making Patrell and the Eightmile Bridge access ADA compliant

Mr. Smith reviewed the engineering plans for the ADA compliant trail. The trail would be 5 feet wide and 6-10 inches of crushed stone covered by a similar material as on the Heritage Park walking trail. Total length added is about 350'. Mr. Smith noted the CC will submit paperwork for a grant. Mr. Gelston suggested reaching out to East Haddam News to get a story written about this work. Ms. Gleeson suggested also planning an event to get the seniors out to see the work once it's been completed.

e. Update on walk behind mower

Mr. Smith noted the mowing season is over and as there's quite a bit of monies that the CC wants to spend on other stewardship work. He would rather use next year's capital budget for the purchase of the mower versus using this year's general regular budget.

f. IBA preserve/reserve inclusion

Mr. Smith noted the EHLT is putting in a grant request to Audubon CT for about \$1000 each. There is interest to combine all the open space IBA grants into one submission for both EHLT and the Town. Discussion ensued. The monies are for signage and map updates.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to participate with the EHLT on a joint grant submission to Audubon CT for IBA grants. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

g. Rose Farm bridge cost and plan

Mr. Smith noted the IWWC site walk is scheduled for Sunday, 11/6. Any CC members can join if interested in attending the site walk.

5. New Business

a. New bills

Shagbark bill, \$296.53, for stain, plywood, hinges, nuts and bolts

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

b. IWWC site walk

Site walk starts at 9am on Sunday at Patrell, will address Patrell, Boot Rock and Rose Farm properties.

c. Public Comment

No public attended.

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

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith reviewed the budget. Of the starting budget \$15,250, there is over \$13,000 still available. The parking lots require stop signs, gravel, apron, etc. to make them much more accessible.

Mr. Smith asked the CC for ideas of what else Public Works needs to address. The road up to Hatch Lot needs to be widened from the brush overgrowing it, as well as the two piles of top soil sitting at the top must be spread. Gravel is still needed on the blue trail bridge. Mr. Smith asked the CC to think about other work so he can create a list for Public Works consisting of the work needed for the next 6 months.

Mr. Smith provided an update to the proposed extension to the Goodwin Trail. There is a grant in place already to double the length of the trail. There are 3 sections that have options being considered still.

Ms. Gleeson has provided Fresh Kitchen in Grist Mill Plaza with maps per the owner's request.

Ms. Goyette will provide the 2017 yearly schedule of meetings; July 4th and Labor Day meetings will be moved to the following Tuesday.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette

Recording Secretary

- Conservation Commission 2 year terms
- Renewal letters from the Board of Selectmen