

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

July 5, 2016

Adopted August 2, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2016, at 7:30 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Joe Zaid, Marilyn Gleeson, Peggy Carlson, Todd Gelston, Paul Sienna, Sue Merrow via phone

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda stands due to lack of FOI meeting notification.

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 6/7/16

4.a. Removed an extra the.

4.e. Spelled Mr. Gelston's name correctly.

5.d. changed working to work

7. Fixed Statutes.

7. Noted that easements being sought are ones that would be donated.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Ms. Merrow noted the Community Lions have been walking Davison and were pleased to note the trees they highlighted as needing to be removed, had been addressed in June. She noted she discussed with the Community Lions, the possibility of the Leos building benches. Mr. Zaid offered his assistance to cut any lumber needed for the benches. Mr. Smith noted the roses are encroaching and need to be trimmed down. He noted there is a need for a post with red arrows showing where the trail diverts off the old woods road. Mr. Zaid pointed out a 2nd geodesic marker that Mr. Smith was unaware of within the same vicinity of the one that was already known. Mr. Gelston provided an update on the last stewardship work party on Patrell. The property has been surveyed again, meaning the fence can now be installed. Mr. Smith noted the pins were there, and with the field notes, they were easy to find. Mr. Smith noted he will drive the corner stakes to get the fence installed. Mr. Smith will submit a CYBD request to check for underground utilities. Mr. Sienna will rent a post hole digger to help facilitate the fence hole digging. The next work party is this Saturday and will address fence installation as well as mark and clear the new western portion of the Blue trail. Mr. Gelston noted there is an updated stewardship priority list which will be provided shortly. The Dean trail needs to be moved away from the active agricultural land. Ms. Gleeson noted there is a tree down across the stream on the Dean

property that needs to be addressed on the orange trail. Mr. Zaid will try to get out to the Dean property to address the downed tree.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow provided an article for the Events magazine on the Goodwin Trail dedication, talking about connections and how important they are. Ms. Gleeson talked with Mr. Casner about why the \$500 of monies was not being offered to print the maps. He related the EDC felt that the maps covered individual properties and were not focused on promoting the town as a whole. As a result, the EDC did not provide any funding to support the map reprinting. Ms. Gleeson suggested that it would help to have a CC member attend the EDC meetings and promote an alliance with them. This would ensure that there's a general understanding of each other's' points of view. Mr. Zaid and Ms. Gleeson will both attend the EDC meetings to start to form a connection with them given the similar focus in promoting the town.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston was unable to attend so nothing to report.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted the meeting focused about the zoning of the four corners in East Haddam. There were 2 people who attended. There was conversation on storm water management which Ms. Gleeson provided to Mr. Gelston. She also noted there was conversation around revitalizing East Haddam Village.

c. Youth group permit and process

Mr. Smith has no updates to provide.

d. Update on Sprecher property swap

Mr. Smith has no updates to provide.

e. Dean parking lot location

Mr. Smith noted there are new maps to post on the signs, the lexan to install on the signs, and the sign boards are up (but not stained). On the Scribner entrance, the town did not create the additional parking space. Mr. Scribner created the parking area himself, so the matter is closed. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Scribner for addressing the need. Mr. Zaid posted the other sign. Mr. Smith noted he still needs to talk with Mr. Erlendson about moving his fence.

f. 2016-2017 budget

Mr. Smith noted the bill for the gravel picked up by the Town Public Works department from Durham has been paid during the last fiscal year. Mr. Smith noted there is currently a potential \$1900 give back; he has to discuss the CC's budget with Finance to determine if there were any monies left over from the prior fiscal year.

g. Map reprinting needs

Ms. Gleeson noted all maps the CC had planned on reprinting have been reprinted. The group discussed all the new changes that are now needed to the maps and the trails. The change to the east end of the orange trail on the Harris property has been corrected on the map. There is a new section of the red trail that needs to be cleared and painted on Harris; the map has already been updated. On Chapal Farm, there is a new section of the blue trail on Patrell across from the blue trail on Pizzini that needs to be cleared and painted. Duncan, Davison

and Hidden Valley are the three new properties that now have maps printed. She also has worked on the Golet Farm map as well. The Sabine property is close to being the focus of stewardship parties, which means a map can then be created. Ms. Gleeson noted there may be a need for a fall printing for the new trails on several new properties.

5. New Business

a. New bills

Ms. Gleeson reimbursement for map printing for \$140.40

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

Bill to renew the Connecticut Land Conservation Council fee, \$200.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to authorize the chairman to renew the membership for \$200. Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved.

b. 6/13 Town Employees' Health Fair

The Health Fair was very well attended and well received. There was quite a bit of interest in the CC booth and a number of attendees took maps. Mr. Smith noted he received a thank you for attending.

c. ATV ordinance

Mr. Smith has not addressed due to the search for a new First Selectman.

d. Linear Trail dedication

Mr. Smith noted there were 50-60 people who attended the trail dedication. There was an article in the East Haddam News promoting the opening as well. The National Park Service also attended and was very pleased with the new trail.

e. Public Comment

No public attended.

6. Next meeting – August 2, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Ms. Gleeson reported she did some research on an input form, but she does not have the input form as a template for stewardship reports. Ms. Goyette will find the form and provide Ms. Gleeson a copy.

Mr. Smith noted the Middle School Environmental Club is looking to add additional trails around the Middle School.

Discussion ensued regarding reestablishing contact within the high school to get students involved in trail stewardship via their mandatory community service. Mr. Gelston will reach out to start to reestablish contact.

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Mr. Smith noted there needs to be research on how to run a farm tractor course. Mr. Sienna noted the high school offers the course as part of the Vo Ag program. He will research who teaches the class and let Mr. Smith know.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary