

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT CONSERVATION
COMMISSION MEETING**

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission
Forestry and Stewardship Sub-committee
January 27, 2016**

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at 7:17 PM at the Todd and Charlotte Gelston's residence on Bogel Road. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Marilyn Gleeson, Rob Smith, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston, Sue Merrow – arrived 8:42.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Gleeson to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Mr. Smith and unanimously approved.

3. Old Business

a. Boy Scout Projects

More boy scouts helpers would be greatly appreciated and utilized as there are a number of potential projects that could use their help.

4. New Business

a. Trail Guide Availability Status

Ms. Gleeson and Ms. Gelston discussed the maps that need reprinting with the group - Rose Farm, Burnham Brook, Urbanic, Chapman Pond and Ballahack. Ms. Gleeson suggested a major reprinting is needed, but three additional properties need to have their trails mapped and be included within that printing (the properties are Davison, Hidden Valley Farm and Duncan Preserve). Ms. Gleeson noted she needs the exact inventory from Ms. Gelston and the exact numbers to be ordered will be discussed at the next full CC meeting. Ms. Goyette will research the original number of maps ordered for the initial printing.

b. Map Holders/QR

The QR has been placed on all holders except for the Silas Holmes Road sign holder for Rose Farm. The properties that need map holders are Ballahack (1), Burnham Brook (1), Dean (2), Harris (2), Hatch (move holder to lower blue trail entrance), Jezek (1 on Daniel Peck), Olde Field (1), Rose Farm (1 on Silas Holmes Rd) and Sheepskin Hollow (3). Total of 12 map holders need to be installed. There will be additional ones ordered – Davison (1), Duncan (1), Hidden Valley Farm (2), Golet Farm (1), Lena (1), Zeleznicky (1), Roaring Brook (1) and Sabine (1). Mr. Smith noted he thought 20 map holders were ordered initially. Ms. Gelston will research to determine the number of map holders ordered prior.

c. Recycle Signs

Ms. Gleeson noted all map holders now have the recycle symbol posted on them.

d. Projects and Project Schedule

Mr. Smith noted bollards need to be ordered again. Two are needed for Boot Rock and 1 needed at the bridge on Patrell. Mr. Smith would like to have 5 or 6 bollards ordered. Mr. Sienna ordered bollards the last time, so the CC will need to discuss with him the best ones to order. Lena, Sabine and Harris need farm gates, which will be purchased as needed. Boundary marking is needed on Zeleznicky, Lena (tagged but not blazed), Roaring Brook, Harris (tagged but not blazed), Rose Farm (south side needs to be tagged and blazed), Boot Rock, Gelston (hay fields – needs to be tagged only), Grist Mill, Griswold Preston, Wolf Tree, Lord Wellington, High School and Middle School, North Moodus, Petticoat Landing, Shugrue, Town Beach, Urbanik (blazed), Williams Duck Mill, Lefebre and Winterbrook. Trails are also needed on all these properties as well.

Mr. Gelston noted there are wood cutters interested in cutting the wood on the Davison property to open up the vista. Mr. Gelston noted that he will hopefully have further updates at the next CC meeting. Ms. Merrow noted the East Haddam Community Lions have agreed to steward the property, and she will discuss with them the possibility of building and installing benches at one or both vistas that will be opened up.

More kiosks are needed for the following properties – Harris, Chapal Farm, Shugrue, Dean, Roaring Brook (small one), Lena (small one), Urbanik (needs to be replaced – small one) and Lefebre.

A bridge is needed to cross the stream on Harris on the orange trail. There is additional work needed to establish an alternate trail connecting to Shannighan Road. On the south side near Shannighan Road, there is a need to address the pin in the field and install one in the stone wall to allow a straight line to be run. The CC needs to re-discuss the Guggenheim request to garden on the town's open space at the next CC meeting.

The most important focus is to tag and blaze properties. Tagging and blazing is almost complete on Lena, Harris, Rose Farm and Gelston. The 2nd priority is to address full tagging and blazing of Zeleznicky, Lefebre, and Shugrue. The group discussed addressing the following groupings of work:

- a) Zeleznicky followed by finishing the 4 properties tagging and/or blazing
- b) Lefebre and Shugrue
- c) Sabine property (move the bridge and improve the trail). Easement properties need tagging only

The cord wood permit may bear review again.

e. Saturday work afternoon tasks and schedule

The Zeleznicky property is the focus for this Saturday's work party. In two weeks, the Sabine property will be addressed.

f. Green space bill

Mr. Smith discussed the Green Space bill, which has been in discussion for 10 to 12 years, and enables legislation which allows towns to establish a fee on the transfer of properties (dwellings, not land or businesses) over \$150,000 to be used open space purchase, farm land preservation and playground or recreation areas purchase. There is a meeting scheduled at 7pm with Land Trusts on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the River COG in Centerbrook to discuss. Mr. Smith would like to move the CC meeting to another date and suggested the CC attend this

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meeting instead. Mr. Smith requested the CC meeting be moved to Feb. 4. Upon discussion, the group determined to move the CC meeting from Feb. 2 to Feb. 4.

5. Announcements and other discussion
None.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Gleeson to adjourn at 9:32 pm, seconded by Mr. Smith , unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary