

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

February 4, 2016

Adopted March 3, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016, at 7:36 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Marilyn Gleeson, Sue Merrow, Rob Smith, Paul Sienna, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston, Peggy Carlson.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 1/5/16

5.c. added that

5.a. removed the motion statement as there were no bills reviewed.

4.a. changed Mr. Sienna to Mr. Zaid regarding the view vista marking.

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

4. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Conservation Commission Minutes for 1/27/16

4.b. Changed QR to Quick Response

4.a. Spelled Urbanik correctly

4.f. Clarified the Green Space bill.

4.d. Spelled Shannaghan Road correctly.

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston outlined the first phase of work related to tagging and blazing properties. Mr. Gelston is creating a schedule of the work. The Zeleznicky property was tagged and blazed, as well as had staked steel posts installed. There is permission to utilize the TNC property to connect an accompanying property. The Sabine property is the next one to be tagged and blazed. The next sub-committee meeting is scheduled for February 17 at 7pm, at the Gelston residence on Bogel Road. Mr. Gelston has not had a chance to follow up with the vista clearing wood cutters yet for the Davison property. Mr. Smith met with Mr. Walter to discuss volunteers using their own power tools and chain saws during work parties. There is a need for each volunteer to sign a Community Service Contract. Mr. Smith also discussed purchasing a field and brush mower, which Mr.

Walter has no issue with volunteers using, if the CC purchases one. Mr. Walter also requested that each volunteer wear the appropriate protection when using power equipment. The CC will purchase additional protective gear in case volunteers do not have their own.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Goyette reviewed the first printing of the maps. The CC asked her to provide a listing of the 2 different printings so that the CC can see what totals were ordered. Ms. Gleeson will be speaking at the Senior Center for the East Haddam Community Lions on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in March.

Volunteer Activism: Ms. Merrow will research how to provide an article to the East Haddam News. The Events magazine should be published soon

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – No update as Mr. Gelston was not able to attend.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson attended and provided an update on the Banner Lodge project and the Public Hearing. There are quite a number of outstanding questions around the proposal, in particular related to water, and waste water treatment and disposal. The Public Hearing has been closed now. There was a brief discussion about the proposed solar farm at Shagbark.

c. Youth group permit and process

No update at this time.

d. Update on Sprecher property swap

Mr. Smith noted a glitch in the property swap has been discovered; tax liens have been discovered on the property, therefore nothing can be completed on the property transfer until they are addressed. Mr. Ventres is looking to see if the town can get an easement while waiting for the transfer to complete.

e. Dean parking lot location

No update at this time.

f. Linear Trail footbridge update

Mr. Smith showed the video of the bridge being built. Mr. Smith also noted he received notice the National Park Service Grant has been awarded to the Eightmile River for the next piece of the trail. Mr. Smith asked Ms. Gleeson to contact Pat Young, staff to the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic coordinating committee, and provide her with information on the trail mapping so that the trail can be mapped further. Mr. Smith hopes to hold a ground breaking ceremony in the spring at the Patrell bridge.

g. Defining difference between “preserve” and other designations

Ms. Gleeson provided an overview of the open space designation definitions. Ms. Merrow noted that Preserve is a higher level of protection and of lower level of human use. See attachments for outline of terms.

h. 2016-2017 budget

Mr. Smith noted originally the CC asked for \$30K for the bridge, which was cut to \$10K and ultimately approved. There were matching funds gifted to the town in addition to this approved budget funding. A National Parks Service grant of \$10K covered the steel cost (\$13K), EHLT covered \$6K and several hundred dollars of concrete work remains to be

finished. Due to this, there are less monies to be spent for gravel and other parking lot maintenance/creation. Discussion ensued around what the budget needs to be for the next fiscal year.

Consensus was the chairman, Mr. Smith, has the latitude to adjust the budget as needed/discussed to meet the CC needs.

6. New Business

a. New bills

Staples bills for laminated trail kiosk Recycle and QR signs - \$38.93

Shagbark bill for nails - \$16.98

Shagbark bill for gate, boundary marking items, posts and locks \$251.18

Shagbark bill for bridge items \$1395.48

Motion by Ms. Merrow to pay for the bills, seconded by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

c. Green Space Bill update

A discussion ensued regarding the 2/2 meeting held on the Green Space Bill. Mr. Smith and Mr. Gelston attended the meeting to hear the discussion. Ms. Merrow noted there is quite a bit of support among a number of environmental groups.

d. Map reprinting needs

To be discussed at the next Forestry and Stewardship Sub-committee meeting.

e. Map Holder needs

To be discussed at the next Forestry and Stewardship Sub-committee meeting.

f. Bollard needs

Mr. Smith talked with Mr. Sienna regarding the 5 bollards that are needed. Mr. Sienna will order them for the CC.

g. Guggenheim request to garden on the town's open space

Mr. Smith will discuss the matter with the Selectmen to ensure they have no issues with allowing the Guggenheims to continue to use a small part of the Harris property to garden.

7. Next meeting – March 1, at The River House.

8. Announcements and other discussion

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

- Open Space Designation

- Open Space Preserve

- An area protected by all but light human use to preserve geological and geomorphical features and its biodiversity
    - Typically has dense native ecosystems needed for scientific study, environmental monitoring and education
    - May have spiritual significance to surrounding communities

- Open Space Reserve

- An area of protected or conserved land or water on which development is indefinitely set aside.
    - It may include the preservation or conservation of a community or region's rural natural or historic character; the conservation or preservation of a land or water area for the sake of recreational, ecological, environmental, aesthetic, or agricultural interests; or the management of a community or region's growth in terms of development, industry, or natural resources extraction.
    - Open space reserves may be suburban, or rural