

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

March 3, 2016

Adopted April 11, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at 7:38 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, Sue Merrow, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 2/4/16

5a. changed Zelesnicky to Zeleznicky

5f. changed to be built to being built.

5h. changed was to were and clarified the grant and changed is to are

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

4. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Conservation Commission Minutes for 2/17/16

3d. changed revise the trails to trail upgrades. Add a comment related to the Harris property work.

Also changes Zeleznicky spelling.

3e. added an l to cancellation

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston reviewed the realignment of the top 10 priorities for stewardship. Mr. Smith noted that for the Patrell property, the DEEP grant for the Linear Trail (a.k.a. Goodwin Trail) will cover the cost of building kiosks. Mr. Smith noted the CC now has signs to denote where the trail/open space parking is versus where private property is. Mr. Smith also noted he has bollards in his possession. Davison Preserve vista has had some cutting already done. Mr. Gelston noted Ricky Shea may want to harvest some of the cedar in exchange for cutting some of the wood. He noted the trails are well used. Harris will have an additional trail added. Rose Farm needs a field sketch. Mr. Smith suggested switching Lefebvre with Zeleznicky given the amount of work that needs to be done on Zeleznicky. Mr. Gelston will update the list and provide to Ms. Goyette to send out to the CC members. Mr. Gelston will publish a work schedule.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow noted an article was posted in the East Haddam News which discussed the trail maps. The next news bulletin is due shortly, and Ms. Merrow asked for article suggestions. She will connect with Joene Hendry from the EHLT to ensure there is no overlap between articles submitted by the two organizations.

Volunteer Activism: Mr. Smith noted that vests, hard hats and chaps are available now for volunteers, honoring Mr. Walter's request to use safety equipment when using chain saws.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston attended the solar farm application for Shagbark; it's the Siting Council's jurisdiction to determine if the application will move forward or not.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson attended; there was much discussion around the Banner Lodge proposal. P&Z is moving forward with addressing the issues of the water, sewer treatment and other neighborhood issues. There was also discussion around a limited approval. A discussion ensued related to the DEEP diversion permit.

c. Youth group permit and process

No new information to provide.

d. Update on Sprecher property swap

No new information to provide.

e. Dean parking lot location

Mr. Smith will have to create another list of needs and a drawing for the Dean parking lot to review with Ms. Lunt.

f. Linear Trail footbridge update

Mr. Smith noted there is additional work to be done. Concrete needs to be poured on the east side, and a welder must attach the plates to the piers. The 3rd pier on the west side needs some additional work as well. Mr. Smith noted the neighbors have used their ATV on the trails, and he has contacted the police, who issued another ticket.

g. 2016-2017 budget

Mr. Smith noted the budget was submitted. The cost for a walk behind mower was not submitted. Mr. Smith asked for \$10K for parking lots and some bridge work, and overall the same monies as last year.

h. Map reprinting needs

The re-printing will not be completed until Duncan, Hidden Valley and Davison are mapped. Ms. Gleeson reviewed the Duncan map to get further clarity on the trail. She also reviewed Hidden Valley Farm to get further clarity on the parcels. She provided the map content to Mr. Gelston to proofread. The word "preserve" or "reserve" will be used going forward where appropriate on Conservation Commission lands.

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

No new information to discuss.

6. New Business

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a. New bills

None.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

c. Plan for Conservation and Development

Mr. Gelston noted P&Z asked for public comment on the current Plan of Conservation and Development as it's time for their annual review. Mr. Gelston will review and provide comments on behalf of the CC at the next P&Z meeting

7. Next meeting – April 5, at The River House.

8. Announcements and other discussion

2015-2016 budget has slowly been spent down, with a total of \$6700 left to spend.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Gelston attended the Public Hearing on the Trowbridge Road property swap.

There will be no minutes posted for this meeting, but there was discussion around the safety issue that must be addressed.

Mr. Smith revisited the Open Space Designation wording, making the final wording as below:

Open Space Preserve

- An area protected from all but light human use (i.e., foot trails) to preserve geological and geomorphical features and its biodiversity
- May have dense native ecosystems needed for scientific study, environmental monitoring and education
- May have spiritual significance to surrounding communities
- Property will remain in its natural state except for managing the forest to remove storm damage, other effects of natural disasters or managing invasive species

Open Space Reserve

- An area of protected or conserved land or water on which development is set aside permanently.
- 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. This does not preclude managing the reserve for best forestry practices

Open space reserves may be suburban or rural.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

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- Conservation Commission Stewardship Project Priority