

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

April 11, 2016

Adopted May 11, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Monday, April 11, 2016, at 7:30 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, Sue Merrow, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

5.a. Fixed possession. Changed trail to trail.

5.h. Changed “The word “preserve” or “reserve” will be used going forward where appropriate on Conservation Commission lands.” to reflect the need for preserves and to denote town-owned open space.

8. Changed has to have. Changed “indefinitely” to “permanently. Removed “a” related to natural disasters.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted the focus has been on clearing the Davison property vista. One can see into Chester right now from the southwestern view. The southeastern view will be worked on next. There will be a work party to work on that vista this coming weekend. Chapal Farm will be the next property focused upon to complete the needed work items noted on the Excel spreadsheet. Mr. Smith noted that the entire Dean property needs to be walked to ensure the trails are adequately marked. The next Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee is scheduled for April 20 at the Gelston’s residence.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow provided an article on the Davison property to the East Haddam News, which was published last week.

Volunteer Activism: Ms. Merrow noted that Ms. Gleeson was a hit at the East Haddam Community Lions talking about the process of making the trail maps. She was presented with a plaque thanking her for her service, along with her dog, Jack. Mr. Gelston attended the Board of Education Strategic meeting last week. There was a line item related to students creating an East Haddam Trail book. Mr. Sienna noted that he was aware of this being accomplished and will try to get a copy of it as well.

- b. IWWC and P&Z updates
    - IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted there has not been much in discussion. There is a 2 lot subdivision under discussion on Hungerford Road and Town Street. The other piece of business is to establish a new business at the corner of Leesville Road and Route 149.
    - P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted the Banner Lodge application has been withdrawn but is anticipated to be resubmitted. Two Wrasslin’ Cats is looking to begin selling ice cream, so will be submitting an application to P&Z.
  - c. Youth group permit and process
    - Nothing to report.
  - d. Update on Sprecher property swap
    - Mr. Gelston noted that as soon as the federal tax liens on the property are addressed, the swap needs to be completed right away. Mr. Smith noted he discussed this matter with Mr. Ventres, who noted the Town Attorney is aware of the matter and ready to execute upon the resolution of the tax issue.
  - e. Dean parking lot location
    - Mr. Smith noted that progress is being made on establishing a parking lot. Mr. Smith discussed the matter with the road foreman, who’s trying to determine water flow and erosion. Work is in progress and will be completed by East Haddam Public Works.
  - f. Linear Trail footbridge update
    - Mr. Smith noted there is still work to be finished on the bridge. It was planned to be done 2 weeks ago, but the work party was cancelled due to inclement weather. The entire trail has been GPSed and mapped, and it’s 14.2 miles long. Tag markers consisting of a bright yellow diamond with a green G (for Goodwin) in the middle will be added next. There is a large amount of illegal ATV traffic on the trails, unfortunately. There is a tentative goal to have the grand opening in May.
  - g. 2016-2017 budget
    - Mr. Smith has heard nothing on the budget request from the Board of Finance.
  - h. Map reprinting needs
    - Ms. Gleeson confirmed what the next printing order will be. She is adding reserve to the properties that need it. The printing will cost over \$3000. Ms. Gleeson will talk with Mr. Casner about the EDC covering the cost for the reprinting.
  - i. Guggenheim request to garden on the town’s open space
    - Nothing to report.
5. New Business
- a. New bills
    - Bill for \$50 to reimburse Joe Zaid for attending the Land Conservation meeting.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to approve the bill. Second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

6. Next meeting – May 3, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith noted that Scott Erlandson, Pete Dean's son-in-law, has built his fence on the west side of the road, such that there is not enough room to construct a trail for access, which had been promised when the Dean easement property discussions were underway. Mr. Gelston noted that the CC should offer to help in moving the fence, as it's a newly installed electric fence.

Related to the Harris property, Mr. Smith received a phone call from Kevin Reich (who replaced Craig Mansfield) who wanted to discuss the parking lots. Mr. Smith needs to ask Mr. Walters who the contact is to address Public Works projects.

Mr. Smith reviewed the budget and noted there is about \$5000 left in the General Government budget. There is still money in the Capital budget, but there is a need for gravel for the parking lots, signs for Dean (emphasizing the active agriculture land is closed to the public), Lena and Zeliznicky and other work.

Mr. Smith noted 500 boundary markers have been purchased for the properties.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary