

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission  
Forestry and Stewardship Sub-committee**

November 28, 2016

Adopted December 6, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Monday, November 28, 2016, at 7:12 PM at 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, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston, Sue Merrow, Paul Sienna, Rob Smith.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Old Business

a. Projects and Project Priority

Mr. Gelston reviewed the priority list. For Chapal Farm, on Patrell, the survey around the 8 acre private property has been done but marking must be completed. The separate entrance has been addressed; appropriate signage was put into place and eliminated the need to move the entrance. Mr. Smith reported to EverSource the concerning condition of the pole and transformer in danger of falling, requesting they address the issue. There is a need for one bollard to replace cable fence on Boot Rock to keep cars from going down the old woods road on Rt. 82, and also one needed at the bridge (also on the Boot Rock side, not the Patrell side). Foot bridges have been completed, the rail fence on the blue trail has been completed as is the large kiosk. The bollards need a weekend to address given the weather and concrete requirements (above-freezing conditions needed). Mr. Sienna will install the bollards as weather permits. Regarding the Dean property, the trail property markings have been completed to denote the private active agricultural land. The only outstanding work on the Dean property is for the Town to post "Caution – road not maintained" signs on both ends of Parker Road. Mr. Smith provided a letter to Public Works and the Selectmen's Office asking for this. The cable fence still needs to be moved; Mr. Smith will discuss the matter with Scott Erlandson. There is a fence that must be moved, but it does not need to be addressed until the Sprecher easement is settled. Regarding the lost hikers who could not find the purple trail, Mr. Smith discussed adding a post to mark the purple trail. For Rose Farm, the southern boundary still needs to be marked, but the pins are there. This will take a full work party to address all the clearing needed. The trees have been cut. Regarding the footbridge, Mr. Smith noted the IWWC approval is forthcoming. Mr. Gelston noted Rose Farm is becoming more and more popular. For the Lena property, the boundaries have been tagged but not blazed yet. Mr. Smith has submitted a plan to Public Works for installation of an 8-car parking lot. Mr. Gelston was approached by a town resident to harvest 6 cords of downed trees, but there is concern regarding the insurance needed. Mr. Gelston will revisit the issue with Linda Z. in the

Town Hall. Roaring Brook has a survey, but the Commission must review the boundary tagging as well as blaze it. The parking lot has been completed by Northeast Utilities. There are no trails to use right now; a trail is needed. Sabine bridge has been moved. The Scout trail has been relocated; it's been cleared of leaves but needs to be finished. There is a need for a spur trail to create trails through the rest of the property. Ms. Gleeson can map the blue trail now. More trees need to be cut, and a sign needs to be posted showing where to walk to the preserve. The map needs to be moved as well, and a new sign is also needed. On the Harris property, there is a need for a small bridge to cross the orange trail. The Sprecher easement has not been settled so there is no need to extend the white trail. Shugrue has a survey and needs to be worked on. Boundaries must be blazed and properly tagged. Trails are needed as well. A parking lot is needed as well. Lefebvre work has been held up due to the issue as to how to mark the boundaries as it's jointly owned by the Town and TNC but will be managed by the Town. Mr. Smith will watch that issue, but the CC may just tag the boundary and the signs could be replaced with new tags once decided. Zeleznicky requires permission from the TNC to address the parking and loop trail needs. Mr. Smith will talk with Liz Robinson of the TNC regarding the permissions needed. Davison scenic vista clearing is in progress; more cutting is needed though. Mr. Smith asked Public Works to clean up the parking lot and pave it as well as to put in stone on the first 200 feet of the trails. The Lions have been faithfully stewarding the property and denoted there are no issues to report. Urbanik signboard must be moved closer to the road and replaced, and a new map is also needed. A gate was installed by the steward who lives across the street. There is space to put in a third loop trail. Town Beach boundaries have never been marked and must be addressed. Grist Mill boundaries need to be marked; the property should probably be resurveyed. Lord Wellington – there was discussion about possibly connecting via an easement through Cone property to connect to Sabine. Mr. Smith talked with Ted Cone who discussed easements with someone in the State; the State representative indicated an easement is not doable. Mr. Smith will discuss the matter with said State representative who discussed the matter with Mr. Cone to ensure there is clear understanding of what is desired. Griswold Preston is located on Olmstead off of East Haddam Colchester Turnpike near the yellow gate near Babcock. Winterbrook must be added to the list as boundaries must be blazed, and there is some demolition needed for an existing building. Petticoat Landing has not been properly tagged and needs to have a new survey to find the boundaries

b. Project Detail Planning

Mr. Gelston would like to hold a site walk on Sunday, 12/4, at 12:30pm on Petticoat Landing given EverSource's powerline work and potential safety issues. Eversource installed gates to stop vehicular traffic, but ATVs are not stopped by the gates. Mr. Smith noted the stone work should be removed after the Eversource work is completed for safety concerns. A site walk is needed to look at the potential safety issues to make a recommendation to the Town. Ms. Goyette will post the walk notice.

In terms of priority, Mr. Smith suggested finishing the work on Sabine, fixing the current trail and marking new trails on the rest of the property. Finishing that work will allow Ms. Gleeson to map the trails. The 2<sup>nd</sup> priority is to clean up the Dean property – white and orange and purple and orange trail intersections are needed. 3<sup>rd</sup> priority is to install bollards at Boot Rock; Mr. Sienna will address. 4<sup>th</sup> priority is Lena to address all the work needed out there. 5<sup>th</sup> priority is Harris to install the orange trail bridge. 6<sup>th</sup> is Shugrue; this is a multi-work day

party due to the amount of work needed. Rose Farm has moved down the list due to the bridge work timing (which may be next fall if normal rainfall commences this winter).

c. Saturday Work Afternoon Tasks and Schedule

Mr. Gelston will post the new schedule given the new priorities outlined during the meeting.

d. Other

Mr. Smith denoted that there is a grand re-dedication of the Comer State Forest on Mount Parnassus. Joanne Rosniak, who spearheads a number of different projects within the Town to highlight it's past, has been working on the re-dedication efforts and it's turned into an international event with representatives from the Canadian Government, The Smithsonian, Mystic Aquarium, Comer's family from the Artic, etc., are all coming to attend. The area will be re-landscaped prior to the event.

4. New Business

a. Other

Nothing to report.

5. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith will provide the Public Works request to the full CC.  
Saturday work parties will resume mid-January.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

- Conservation Commission Stewardship Project Priority