

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

February 7, 2017
Adopted March 7, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 7:33 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 1/3/17

Motion by Ms. Gelston to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved. Ms. Carlson abstained.

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gelston, Mr. Smith and Mr. Sienna took advantage of the warm winter and cleared a portion of the west trail on Sabine. There have not been many work parties. Mr. Gelston anticipates the next work party will be in March.

Outreach and Promotion: The CC noted the article Ms. Merrow wrote in Events was excellent. Mr. Smith noted that when he printed out the Golet Farm map in black and white for the Land Trust Alliance, he noticed the trails were hard to denote. Ms. Gleeson noted that all other maps that have been published use different trail demarcations in case people print in black and white.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston attended the last meeting; there was not much to report.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson has not been able to attend any of the January meetings. Mr. Smith attended a meeting recently where Mr. Jezek presented on behalf of Mr. Casner the proposal to donate some of the AP Gates parcel for open space. Mr. Smith noted the letter from the CC denoted the town should not accept the open space donation as it is not contiguous to any other open space and is very small in size. There was discussion regarding the subdivision proposal to split a lot on which there are a number of cottages on Grist Mill Road; the number of bedrooms on the single lot is 25+ and therefore the property would classify as a public water source.

c. Making Patrell and the Eightmile Bridge access ADA compliant

Mr. Smith noted he has heard nothing back on the grant proposal; he indicated that this is likely a good sign.

d. IBA preserve/reserve inclusion

Mr. Smith noted there is not much change given the weather. The EHLT is taking the lead, and signs are being made.

e. Rose Farm bridge cost and plan

Mr. Smith noted there are no new developments to note.

f. P&Z discussion

Previously discussed under P&Z updates

g. Letters of support for EHLT grant applications

Mr. Gelston signed the letter of support for the grant application for new open space parcel purchase by EHLT.

h. Dedication and name change of Sabine parcel

Mr. Smith talked with Mr. Ventres who relayed the Sabine family would very much like the property to be named Sabine. Mr. Smith noted there is a possibility to name a trail that goes near the reservoir after Hannah Corbiel. Mr. Ventres is going to conduct some research on the area where a pipe used to be to see if Public Works can put a new pipe in place to help with drainage.

5. New Business

a. New bills

Shagbark bill, \$81.74 for padlocks, flagging tape

Motion by Ms. Gelston to pay the bill as presented. Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

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

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Gelston provided a bit of history around why there are a number of small lots on the river near Chapman's Pond. It is due to the fact that the land was split to provide farmers with small parcels to collect salt hay, which is good for sick animals and bedding.

Mr. Zaid, on March 18, will attend the CLCC conference at Wesleyan. Mr. Smith will present on 2 different topics that day – working with other Land Trusts to create connecting parcels and efforts, and working with the Land Trust Exchange and how it's been involved over the years.

Mr. Smith showed the Aquarion Water Company's event letter and flyer to honor environmental champions on June 3.

Mr. Smith met with Mr. Wade Turner, Road Foreman for Public Works, who outlined the Rose Farm parking lot as per the drawings Mr. Smith provided. Regarding Parker Road, a sign is needed

to ensure that Mr. Scrivner's private drive is not used to park for the trails, and a gate to be installed to block traffic.

Motion by Ms. Merrow that, after Mr. Scrivener signs the gate installation proposal to install a gate on Mr. Scrivener's driveway to avoid further issues with hikers parking on private property, the gate can be installed. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith noted Mr. Erlandson's cable fence has not been moved yet. He was talking with the Shagbark employees who suggested a telescoping gate that might work for Mr. Erlandson's gate issue.

Mr. Smith provided a draft of a letter to Mr. Lyman, First Selectman, to discuss a number of concerns. The CC provided feedback to Mr. Smith for updates.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary