

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

March 7, 2017

Adopted April 4, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 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, Sue Merrow, Joe Zaid, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston

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 2/7/17

4.a. Added Mr. Smith and Mr. Sienna and "a portion of" to the west trail

4.g changed letters to letter and added by EHLT

4.h. removed s from names on the header and changed possibly to possibility

7. added been to before involved

7. added and bedding to the first paragraph

4. added Wade to describe which Mr. Turner

7. corrects Scrivener's name spelling

7. clarified and a gate to be installed

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted that the crew is doing their best to get out and work the land, but the weather has not cooperated much. The next work party will address Sabine and following that, the Davison property. Mr. Smith noted Mr. Govert recently walked Davison and was most impressed with the work the CC has completed to restore the vista.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow noted the next Events magazine article is due March 31. Ms. Merrow is looking to create a collection of funky facts on the properties. Mr. Smith also noted that Rose Farm and Lena have had bird surveys completed on them, and there may be some interesting facts to denote for those properties. Mr. Gelston also talked about how the Old Cove cemetery got started, which would be an interesting story to include.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston attended and noted that Lake Hayward, Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir residents are trying to improve their docks and sea walls. Plans were submitted for athletic fields behind the old middle school, which is municipal space; discussions ensued.
P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted every 10 years the Plan of Conservation and Development is reviewed, and the P&Z discussed how to reach out to the town’s people. They have decided to engage all the boards and commissions to garner ways to gather information from town residents.

- c. Making Patrell and the Eightmile Bridge access ADA compliant
Mr. Smith let the CC know that the grant was declined due to budget cuts.
- d. IBA preserve/reserve inclusion
Nothing new to report. Signs have been made through the EHLT.
- e. Rose Farm bridge cost and plan
No change to report.

5. New Business

- a. New bills
No new bills.
- b. Budget review and discussion
Mr. Smith asked Mr. Lyman to find out the details on the EHCC budget request. There were 2 adjustments, the walk behind mower was removed and the capital budget was reduced by \$5000. The Board of Finance meetings are upcoming, and there may be other budget cuts.
- c. Mr. Smith’s discussion with Mr. Lyman regarding EHCC correspondence
Mr. Smith noted Mr. Lyman called him and discussed several matters; the Shanaghan Road south gate will be left open now, but will post signs to deter ATV traffic. Mr. Lyman asked about the trees that must be cut on Pizzini; he will have the town crew address those. Mr. Smith will provide the letter from Mr. Lyman answering Mr. Smith’s original letter requesting Patrell, Rose Farm and Hatch Lot be plowed during storms to allow for the public to engage in winter activities on those properties. Plowing this winter was delayed due to a concern from Ms. Lunt related to people potentially slipping in the plowed parking lots. Mr. Smith noted there is no town liability if there is no charge to be on the property.
- d. Public Comment
No public attended.

6. Next meeting – April 4, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Ms. Gleeson has updated the open space map; Mr. Smith will have Mr. Ventres review to ensure it is correct. Town easements on open space are not denoted but must be addressed.

8. Adjournment

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, March 7, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary