

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

April 4, 2017

Adopted May 2, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at 7:34 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being absent, Marilyn Gleeson took minutes as Alternate Recording Secretary.

a. Roll Call

Marilyn Gleeson, Rob Smith, Paul Sienna, Sue Merrow, Joe Zaid, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 3/7/17

a. 5.c. corrected spelling of Shanaghan.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gelston reported that they tried 3 times to have a work party but were unsuccessful due to bad weather. The work party is being moved to Sunday this coming weekend due to relatives visiting the Gelston family. The focus will be at Davison to clear the vista, which will need two days of work. The blue trail at Sabine is complete, but the red trail needs to be finished and will require one more work party.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow submitted her article on time for the Events Magazine about the Eightmile being in the IBA and that 17 open space properties (EHLT and EHCC) are also within it. There are also tips on things to do to get more birds in your yard. An annual report from the Council on Environmental Quality noted forest birds are on the decline.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report. Need to get more volunteers to participate somehow.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston attended a meeting which was all about homeowners wanting to improve the waterfront at Lake Hayward. The homeowners live up the hill but couldn't find access to the lake except via a small piece of land where they wanted to install a seawall and long dock.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson reported that Banner requested a 90 day extension for their Conservation Easement language. There was also discussion around people complaining about the number of trailers people have on their property. The existing regulations allow for multiple trailers owned by the landowner. She also distributed the changes to the Industrial/General District reviewed at the Public Hearing, which added four sections to the east side of the District. Finally she read the Sanctuary’s notice of events planned in 2017.

- c. IBA preserve/reserve inclusion – This was discussed in 4a above.
- d. Rose Farm bridge cost and plan – There are no change to plans, and nothing can be done until the fall.
- e. Budget review and discussion – Mr. Smith was told that the \$4500 for the walk behind mower does not meet capital requirements, which has a \$5000 minimum. Also, he was never notified when budget hearings were held. P&Z was also not informed. Mr. Gelston said there were no hearings. The Finance Board is in an awful situation not knowing what the State will be doing. There is an expectation the State will ask towns to take on a 7.4% increase to handle the teachers’ pensions.

Mr. Smith talked to Ms. Lunt who submitted a proposal for an encroachment permit for Boot Rock to put in a driveway. He is waiting on the results of that permit request. Discussion ensued. The CC has money in the budget for map reprinting. Only spent 1/3 of the budget for this fiscal year has been spent so far.

- f. Mr. Smith’s discussion with Mr. Lyman regarding EHCC correspondence – The message is that they were taking out \$5k; there is nothing new to report.

5. New Business

- a. New bills-none
- b. Public Comment
No public attended.

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

7. Announcements and other discussion

Vehicles from the house at Patrell are using the town’s parking lot. When Mr. Smith had the meadow and area near the river mowed, the town people doing it complained that a large truck and a lot of cars were there making it hard to turn around. They took down license plates which were given to a constable, who may have already contacted the owner of the home.

The CC will be putting up a kiosk and bollard at Boot Rock. The CC will also be putting signs along the Goodwin Trail to identify each section of the trail (i.e., Boot Rock, Patrell, etc.).

The Goodwin Trail received the Conservation Project of the Year Award. Maps are online and will be available in print soon. There will need to be more trails added to connect to the airline trail.

Also, for the Comer Memorial celebration, many trees need to be cut down by the Town. They are looking for the EHLT to get involved. The event is September 16, 2017. The town expects members of the Canadian Government and Comer family, representatives from the Smithsonian and Mystic Seaport to participate. Balleks will be putting together plantings, and there will be a steam cleaning of the stone memorial. They also hope to remove or bury the base of the old fire tower. Some big red pine trees might still be alive, but all are to be removed. In total, about 1 acre will eventually be cleared.

Mr. Smith received signs from Ms. Lunt for Shanaghan that say no ATVs or motor vehicles allowed.

Mr. Smith was in contact with Mr. Ventres regarding adding a gate to Mr. Scrivner's property, which is at the north trail entrance on Dean. Mr. Smith is planning on meeting with Mr. Ventres and the Scrivners on Tuesday 4/11 regarding installing the gate, along with signs directing hikers to the trailhead and to parking along right side.

Mr. Smith also had a meeting with Resource Conservation Development/Cricklewood Farm Development (in Lyme) who hope to create an agricultural research and education area. It might be called The Richard H Goodwin Center. It also might evolve into a place to camp and educate people on conservation, etc. To the west and north of the property, the Lyme Land Trust owns property.

Mr. Smith is putting together a proposal for the Ray of Light and also plans to talk to the Erlandsons about the cables installed on CC property as well as to offer them a gate or post for their property.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn F. Gleeson
Alternate Recording Secretary