

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

May 2, 2017

Adopted June 6, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 7:34 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Marilyn Gleeson, Rob Smith, Sue Merrow, Joe Zaid, Peggy Carlson, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 4/4/17

4.outreach and promotion – added “open space” and “(EHLT and EHCC)”

7.Removed Mr. Smith and added “were given”. Related to the Comer memorial, changed the reference to the fire tower to “remove or bury”, also added “but all are to be removed”. Related to the Mr. Scrivner’s property, replaced “he” with “Mr. Smith” and added “meeting with Mr. Ventres and the Scrivners on Tuesday, 4/11, regarding” and removed “a” changed “sign” to “signs”. Related to the Cricklewood Farm, added “(in Lyme)”

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted that additional work has been done on the Davison property. Ms. Merrow noted the Lions have already taken a walk there and enjoyed the view. They did want the CC to know there is a plethora of multi-flora rose on the property. There are a bunch of cedars that have been cleared to allow views through both vistas. There is a plan to open up another vista to the east. On the western vista, the deer are grazing on the high grass that’s growing there. There are a few trees that need to be felled in the second vista, but Mr. Gelston and the work party ran out of time. The next work party is on Sabine to clear the trail; it is scheduled for Saturday, May 13. Mr. Smith noted that stewardship folks installed 4 kiosks on the Goodwin Trail – 1 at Boot Rock at the Rt. 82 parking lot, a sign at Eightmile Wildlife Management area, 2 signs on Holmes Road in East Lyme, and lastly 1 at Hartman Park. The maps have been made and were going to be picked up today. The Eightmile Wild and Scenic group will be at the Taste of East Haddam. Mr. Smith also delivered posts and a gate for the Scrivners to install, which will address the parking issue.

Mr. Smith also met with Beth Lunt to find out how Public Works is progressing on the projects the CC has requested. He will meet with her next week to discuss the projects. He asked about the encroachment permit, but there is no update.

Mr. Smith also noted that the 3rd week of May, there are a week of volunteer activities scheduled with 10 children from Franklin Academy across town. The students will build a bridge on Harris and straighten out the Hatch Lot rocks that have moved from the frost heaves. They will also post a sign thanking Ralph Parady for his help in installing the stones.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow noted the CC had a booth at the Science Fair, right next to the Land Trust, and received quite a bit of interest in the maps. People were quite thrilled to see how much opportunity there is to hike, and there was quite a bit of interest in the Goodwin Trail. A large number of maps were distributed; there were about 250 – 300 people who attended the fair.

Mr. Smith noted there is a need for maps to be reprinted. He suggested that Ms. Gleeson take ownership of figuring out what needs to be printed, and Mr. Smith will ask the EHLT to cover the cost of the maps for those properties. The CC members agreed with the plan to let Ms. Gleeson order the next round of map printing.

Mr. Smith noted he had received a call from Mr. Casner, chairperson of the EDC, who noted the EDC is interested in printing a brochure with all the maps and properties. Ms. Gleeson spent quite a bit of time creating a map of the town and properties for that request.

Volunteer Activism: Ms. Gleeson noted she's been working with the Middle School Environmental Club, mapping the trails they have installed. She and Mr. Smith posted the laminated maps and holders on the kiosks along with the Club, which is excellent to note.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted that there are quite a number of Lake Hayward residents who are interested in installing concrete “sea” walls. They did approve one application with conditions. In the last 6 months, there has not been much major business.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted the former Root Agency is going to be a barber shop and as it is in an historic district, the signage will need to be approved. There is a rumor that to put a walkway on the side of the East Haddam Swing Bridge will cost more than the Civic Center cost - \$30M. Mr. Zaid attended another meeting, and noted the only agenda item was the Plan of Conservation and Development. They discussed how to get town folk involved in the review.

Mr. Smith noted that a P&Z representative will attend the June 6 meeting of the Conservation Commission to review the Plan of Conservation and Development.

c. Budget review and discussion – Mr. Gelston provided an update on the May 1 Board of Finance workshop.

5. New Business

a. New bills

Shagbark \$701.66 for wheelbarrow, hoe, odds and ends, stains for sign boards, gates and posts, and posts for boundary marking

Motion by Ms. Merrow to pay the bill as noted. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

Essex Sign and Display \$275.00 for signage and graphic design time

Motion by Mr. Zaid to pay the bill as noted. Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved.

- b. Public Comment
No public attended.

6. Next meeting – June 6, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith asked the Commission if there is any interest in posting that properties are open dawn to dusk, except by permission. It gives the police a bit more power to issue an infraction for simple trespassing. Discussion ensued. The CC agreed adding the verbiage that properties are open dawn to dusk would be a good thing. An ordinance will need to be created.

The CC can revisit the ATV ordinance given the Town is now pulling together ordinances. Ms. Goyette will add to the June agenda.

Mr. Smith noted that it would be a good idea to put together at least a policy or an ordinance around geo-caching or letter boxing.

Mr. Smith showed a sample of the signs being posted on the Goodwin trail. He asked the CC if there needs to be the same type of signs posted on trails. More discussion will ensue at the June meeting; Ms. Goyette will put it on the June agenda.

Mr. Smith asked if there is any interest in attending the Taste of East Haddam on May 5, from 11 – 2pm. No one can attend and sit in a booth for the festival.

Mr. Smith provided a cursory update on the budget and how much money is still going to be spent.

Mr. Gelston asked Mr. Smith if there has been any movement on the Ray of Light bridge. Mr. Smith is going to revisit with Ray of Light in a week or two.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- The Habitat, Winter 2017, volume 29 number 1