

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT CONSERVATION
COMMISSION MEETING**

East Haddam

Conservation Commission

June 6, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at 7:33 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Joe Zaid, Marilyn Gleeson, Rob Smith, Sue Merrow via phone, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston, Paul Sienna. Others present: Bernie Gillis

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smith suggested moving the Plan of Conservation and Development to be discussed after the approval of minutes.

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 5/2/17

4a. corrected Beth's last name to Lunt

4a. updated Volunteer Activism to "and Mr. Smith posted the laminated maps and holders"

4b. added " " around sea

4b changed "a" to "are"

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted that the focus a week ago last Saturday was to clear the red trail on the Sabine property. It is not cleared yet but is ready for painting, mapping and marking. The trail head starts on Daniel Peck Road, and there is an east and west side.

Mr. Smith noted the Franklin Academy kids work on several projects – they installed 160' of boardwalk through the wet spot on Pizinni, using an old forest road to bring in materials.

On Harris, the Franklin Academy kids also built a bridge on the orange trail to allow for trail walking across the stream. There is a bit more work that must be completed still – the railing needs to be added. The Franklin Academy students also walked the Harris trails and clipped back overgrowth as well as on the EHLT's Sheepskin Hollow Preserve.

Mr. Smith also talked with Liz Robinson, who noted the contract has been signed to clean up the entrance to the Chapman Pond property.

Regarding the Comer State Forest property clean up, Mr. Smith updated the CC that the town crew cut down the trees he had marked and the Hale Ray FFA students cleaned out around the monument rock and planted shrubs per the Ballek's planting plans.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow submitted the IBA article, which was published in the last Events magazine.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Nothing to report as Mr. Gelston did not attend.

P&Z – The main discussion has been the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Mr. Zaid attended a meeting and noted there was discussion related to Wildwood development of seasonal cottages with no septic systems, and with one well. The State noted the systems are antiquated, and the State is considering allowing holding tanks as a method to clean up that area. A single well feeding 38 cottages is considered a public water supply. There is also an issue with the new emergency tower being built on Mount Parnassus related to insufficient footings, therefore the additional 60' cannot be added. Mr. Zaid asked to be made an alternate as the CC representative to P&Z. He is also planning on running for a P&Z position. The CC members thought this was an excellent idea for him to represent the CC.

- c. Budget review and discussion – Mr. Smith provided an update on the budget. He prefaced the discussion with an update on Public Works' addressing CC requests. He talked with Ms. Lunt about the Lena property and work needed there; she noted she is hiring to replace Wade Turner and asked Mr. Smith to wait until that person is in the role. There has not been any movement on any of the Public Works requests. Mr. Smith will check to determine if the capital not spent needs to be encumbered to ensure it does not disappear. Mr. Smith noted there is \$8560 left to spend, but there are outstanding bills to be paid, which will use much of the monies. He will talk with Mr. Lyman about the fact that the CC is back in the same situation as it was last year given that Public Works has not worked on the projects they noted they would work on. There was discussion about purchasing the walk behind mower; Mr. Smith will get a price from Gano's.

5. New Business

a. New bills

\$3775.45 Shagbark bill to purchase wood, paint and screws

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

b. Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Gillis discussed the Planning and Zoning Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) per guidelines to review and update the document every 10 years. Mr. Gillis reviewed the Conservation Commission section with the CC to review what is currently outlined to get feedback. Chapter 3 was reviewed. He asked the CC to pull together a wish list and future focus list to include within the document. The CC needs to review to determine if there are missing items and also potentially clarify certain points. Mr. Gelston noted the CC will need P&Z's help to install parking lots, as there are a number of properties with excellent trails that

do not have adequate parking so are not used often. Ms. Gleeson asked if the CC's input requires Selectmen approval; Mr. Gillis did not know. Mr. Gillis will ask the P&Z chair and let Mr. Smith know the process. Mr. Gillis noted the CC needs to provide a draft document to the P&Z; Mr. Smith asked what the update process is and if the information provided is going to be changed by the P&Z. Mr. Gillis did not know. He also noted there will be a public hearing for the Town to review and provide comments on. Ms. Merrow noted the IBA needs to be added to Chapter 3 - The Environment. Also there are a number of places that outline open space numbers that require updating. There are also references to inventories being completed which would require funding. Ms. Merrow also noted the POCD contains very good information that could be used as a basis discussion across Town government. Mr. Gillis also noted the P&Z wants to send out a survey to the Town's residents, which were completed in 1997 and 2006 previously. Mr. Ventres provided the P&Z with a draft, and Mr. Gillis asked the CC to provide any input related to additional questions. Mr. Gelston noted that surveys require careful consideration related to how questions are written and presented. He suggested that the P&Z hire a competent resource to help with that. Mr. Gillis noted the survey's intent is to collect information from the Town's residents to understand where they think the town should head related to its conservation and development. Mr. Smith noted it would be a very good idea for the Town to reestablish the Open Space Bonding to \$5M again, but that may not be feasible. Mr. Gillis asked for a document in the next month or two.

- c. ATV Ordinance
Tabled to next meeting.
- d. Use of Goodwin Trail type signs on other town-owned open space
Tabled to next meeting.
- e. Public Comment
No public attended.

6. Next meeting – July 11, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith provided a mocked up version of a letterboxing ordinance for the CC to review. Mr. Smith will present to the Selectmen for their review.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to approve the letterboxing ordinance and submit to the Selectmen for their consideration and approval. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith brought up the potential of creating the Hannah Corbeil trail on Sabine. Mr. Smith talked with Mr. Lyman, who thought it was an excellent idea and he would support this. Mr. Smith has a call into Mr. Corbeil and is waiting for him to call back to discuss what the CC would like to do to determine if the Corbeil family would like to have this occur.

CTRC&D (CT Resource Conservation & Development) is having an event at Parmalee Farm in Killingworth on June 15 at 8:30 – 2:30. The CC can send a member with the Town paying the attendance fee. The Richard H. Goodwin trail is being recognized at the event. Mr. Zaid is interested in attending; Mr. Smith will be attending.

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, June 6, 2017

Mr. Smith noted there is additional bridge work needed on the red trail on Sabine as well as additional work on the Goodwin Trail to address water crossing the trail.

Mr. Gelston noted the Farrow property is being sub-divided again into 3 lots.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Richard H. Goodwin Trail mapping
- Letterbox/Geocache Placement Permit Application