

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

July 11, 2017

Adopted August 1, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 7:31 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, Paul Sienna, Sue Merrow arrived at 7:42.

2. Approval of Agenda

Added Reappointments to the New Business.

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 6/6/17

4a. added (bog walk or bog bridge)

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. Smith noted all the projects that Public Works has been requested to do are now complete: a parking lot installed at Chapal Farm Boot Rock, a paved apron installed for Hatch Lot as was parking lot which has been installed and now set to be paved along with stone installed in the ditches to help with drainage and a parking lot installed at Lena. All dirt removed from Lena to make the parking lot installation easier has been stockpiled at Harris to drain and will be moved to the western boundary on the orange trail on Harris to make the path much easier to mow.

For the Sabine property, the red trail is all cleared. Mr. Zaid marked the white trail which goes from Daniel Peck to the end of the property. There should be a work party upcoming given there was not one last weekend.

Outreach and Promotion: There is an article written about all the opportunities for trail connections for the next Events magazine. Ms. Merrow noted the Community Lions held a Solstice walk up on Davison and let her know that there was a tree that needs to be addressed. They really enjoyed the hike and the view.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – No report as Mr. Gelston did not attend.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted that there was one new item discussed, an upcoming public hearing on a new subdivision request for the Bernstein property. Ms. Gleeson will ask that the Land Use Office add Mr. Zaid to the distribution list for the information.

c. Budget review and discussion

Mr. Smith noted the budget balance is \$1335.08. The CC has encumbered \$3449.48 for the walk behind mower. Almost \$3500 was taken out of the capital budget but material for the Public Works work still needs to be paid for. There will still be a fair amount in the capital budget to allow the CC to move ahead with other projects. There will likely only be a few hundred dollars left over in the budget after everything is paid for. If the budget passes, the CC can then use the encumbered money.

d. Plan of Conservation and Development

Tabled to next meeting.

e. ATV ordinance

Mr. Smith has not created an ordinance, as the town has not done anything related to ordinances since the 1940s. He noted he does have an ATV ordinance sample to use though.

f. Use of Goodwin Trail type signs on other town-owned open space

Mr. Smith noted the discussion at the prior meeting is related to the international hunting type signs. He noted the idea is that there will be a sign, as people come onto the property, to tell them what is and is not allowed on the property – primarily hunting is allowed and ATV usage is not. In addition, the CC needs to include signs on all bridges to show that horses are or are not allowed due to weight. Mr. Smith asked the CC to consider if there are any other signs needed to be posted at the kiosks, and Mr. Sienna noted adding signs for if horses are allowed on trails, along with mountain biking and hiking. Mr. Smith will review to see how to best create the signs. At different entry points, there is a need to post individual signs. The CC noted that signs with white writing on a blue background make sense for consistency sake.

5. New Business

a. New bills

\$216.04, Shagbark, for screws, tape, 2x4x12s, caulk, various bridge materials

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

\$260.00, \$200.00, \$800.00, \$900.00 all for Renz construction for gravel, and will be paid for by the operating budget (supplies)

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

\$583.13 and \$328.34 all for Adelman Sand and Gravel, and will be paid for by last year's capital

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

\$300 for a sponsoring member for the CLCC

Motion by Ms. Merrow to pay the sponsoring member fee as noted. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

b. Discussion on last year's budget and projects

Mr. Smith noted that the CC needs to discuss what projects need to be done this year.

Discussion ensued and resulted in the following list:

- Rose Farm connecting bridge
- Completion of existing vista views
- Hold outreach event to other volunteers and market the work that's been done
- Property stewards
- Trail on Lena
- Finish Sabine work – posts and bridge

To plan the outreach event, a Stewardship meeting will be held to discuss and plan. Ms. Goyette will reach out via email to the CC to see when a Stewardship meeting can be scheduled.

c. Reappointments

The following commissioners' terms have expired and are up for reappointment as of 6/30/17:

- Todd Gelston
- Sue Merrow
- Rob Smith
- Peggy Carlson – she indicated at the previous meeting she is not going to request reappointment

There is still a vacancy for an alternate member.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Merrow are both interested in staying on as members. Mr. Smith will ask Mr. Gelston if he is still interested.

d. Public Comment

No public attended.

6. Next meeting – August 1, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith noted he discussed mower training with Mr. Turner, but is still unclear as to what will be required.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, July 11, 2017

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- The Habitat, Spring 2017, volume 29 number 2