

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

August 1, 2017

Adopted September 12, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, at 7:28 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 7/11/17

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted the red trail on the Sabine property has been completed. Posts are up, bridge is in and orange trail is completed. Ms. Gleeson has walked the blue trail and part of the red trail, and can now finish GPSing the trails to get a map created. Mr. Gelston thanked Ms. Gleeson for her time and efforts on creating the maps as they are both a work of art as well as promoting quite a bit of good press. The next work party is this Saturday and will be at the Lena property. Mr. Smith noted the trail has been marked. Mr. Smith is suggesting using 2-man crews – one who cuts and one who clears the downed branches.

The next Stewardship meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10 at 7pm at the Gelston residence on Bogel Road. The topic will be to review the next 3 months of activities and how to engage more volunteers.

On the Harris property, the bridge across the orange trail has been completed. Mr. Zaid picked up the debris.

On the Davison property, the apron has been paved on the parking lot.

Mr. Smith noted the mower is now ready to be picked up. He talked with Mr. Turner about the training needed for the CC to use the mower. Mr. Turner informed him that there is a hold harmless form that must be signed, a training video needs to be viewed, and a training class on how to use the mower must be conducted. It will be kept at the town garage near the Town Office building. There will be a sign in/sign out sheet as well. Ms. Goyette will create the date signed in/out, time, where it was used, by whom it was used and send to Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith noted that gravel has been placed on the west side of Harris to be placed against the stone wall.

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Mr. Smith will research getting an excavator to clear the stumps at Davison which will enable ease of mowing.

Pizinni blue trail, Davison red trail and Boot Rock purple trail all need tree work done to address downed trees.

Outreach and Promotion: Tabled to next meeting.

Volunteer Activism: Topic will be discussed at next Stewardship meeting.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston did not attend the last meeting, but in reviewing the minutes, the focus is about planning for lake work.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted the last one has been cancelled and there was a CC meeting that overlapped. Mr. Smith noted Mr. Bernstein did get one lot approved.

c. Budget review and discussion

Mr. Smith noted that \$11.82 was not spent from last year's budget.

d. Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Smith noted this must be discussed either at the next meeting or within a special meeting. The CC must determine what must be changed or added to. The P&Z is looking for responses in September and October. Mr. Zaid noted the survey will be an advanced version of what was used during the last review.

e. Discussion of last year's budget and projects

Mr. Smith suggested that at the next meeting, the CC discuss writing a letter or providing an article to the newspaper to highlight how much effort has been done on open space by the CC, which is an all-volunteer organization. It would be good to include a quote from one of the out-of-state hiking groups on the open space.

f. Reappointments

Mr. Smith noted everyone has stated they want to be reappointed with the exception of Peg Carlson. There is a Selectmen's meeting tomorrow which will address the reappointments.

5. New Business

a. New bills

No bills were provided to Mr. Smith.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

6. Next meeting – September 12, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

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Mr. Smith has designed some of the signs to provide to Essex Printing for trail usage (like hunting, hiking, horseback riding, etc.). The signs will be white with blue lettering as that is what the CC agreed to at the last meeting.

By 10th of August, Mr. Smith should have enough signs to post at the trail junctures, so the CC can start installing.

Mr. Gelston complimented Ms. Gleeson on the excellent peach pastries she provided and asked that the minutes reflect that.

Mr. Smith will purchase a set of folding aluminum ramps from Gano's to help get the new mower onto different CC members' trucks.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary