

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

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

September 12, 2017

Adopted October 3, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 7:39 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Joe Zaid, Paul Sienna – departed 8:11, Marilyn Gleeson, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston, Sue Merrow – arrived at 7:50

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 8/1/17

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

4. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee Minutes for 8/10/17

Corrected date from August 11 to August 10.

3.a.5. change party to parties.

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gelston provided an update. The Lena property now has a red trail that was completed. Mr. Smith asked if Lena needs any other work; Mr. Gelston noted that the trail needs to be mowed. Discussion ensued around if the new mower can be used to mow the trail. Mr. Smith asked if it can be mowed with a brush hog, which Mr. Gelston noted would work. Mr. Zaid will mow the property and Ms. Gleeson will map it.

On a separate note on the mower, Mr. Turner has let Mr. Smith know he and Mr. Zaid can be trained on the mower this week.

Mr. Gelston provided an updated schedule for future work parties.

The next property that will be worked is the Dean property to address the orange trail confusion. Mr. Smith noted that the Erlandsons on Dean Farm may have an agreement to allow Millington Beefalo farm to use the land to graze the beefalo. There may be trail re-

routing to be addressed, but that remains to be seen. Mr. Smith will check on what the Erlandsons are planning on fencing for the grazing.

For the Davison property, Public Works has agreed to stump the vista. In addition, Public Works will also spread out the 2 big piles of top soil at the Hatch Lot vista. Mr. Smith will review the items with Public Works this week.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow updated the group on the article. She received an update from Linda Z that the next article is due by Sept. 29. Ideas include talking about the Lena and Sabine properties. On Sabine, there is a foundation that is referenced to have belonged to H. Cone, at the corner of the Orange and Red trail at the top of the hill. Trails are open, blazed and mapped.

Ms. Merrow has been working on the Oct. 8th event article; she's waiting for the final information about the event. She will send the article to Mr. Smith again for him to review. Ms. Goyette will update several FaceBook groups related to East Haddam about the upcoming event. Also, the sandwich boards should also be used to highlight the event.

Volunteer Activism: Mr. Smith noted a Boy Scout has contacted the Conservation Commission for an Eagle Scout project. The CC discussed options of different projects. On the Davison property, a bench, picnic table and a storyboard telling the history of the property and the views are needed as well as the trail up to the vista requires major cleaning. The good thing about Davison is that it is a popular trail. Mr. Smith will call the Scout and discuss the project.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted there was no report as the last meeting was very short.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid was not able to make the last meeting, but was able to make the August 8th meeting. The topics discussed at that meeting were related to the request for a ham radio tower public hearing. He also noted that the planning for the swing bridge south side walkway is moving forward, as is a revitalization committee to address the Town Office building space. A core sample in the old school has been done to ensure there is no contamination. From the August 22th meeting, La Vita received approval to have live music Tuesday through Sunday night until 10pm.

c. Plan of Conservation and Development

The topic will be discussed at the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee meeting on Oct. 12.

d. Discussion of last year's budget and projects

Mr. Smith has not received any new or different information on the 2017-2018 budget. The CC should think about what other projects are needed for this upcoming year that Public Works could help with.

e. Reappointments

All reappointments were approved by the Selectmen.

f. Comer Monument

There will be a re-dedication of Comer State Park on Saturday morning at 10:30am. There is now a parking lot and fencing to demarcate parking. The town has cut down trees, chipped them, and State Park employee spread several huge piles of wood chips. Mr. Smith also cleaned up the area. The town buried the fire tower steps as well and removed some stumps. The post and rail barriers have been installed as well. The town also trucked in gravel, however the State has committed to replacing the gravel that the town laid down for the event. The replacement gravel will be stockpiled for other Conservation Commission projects. There are a huge number of volunteers who have been engaged from across the town to make the project come together. The Lyme-Old Lyme high school industrial arts class created the sign. The first event of the week will be tomorrow.

6. New Business

a. New bills

\$212.84 Shagbark bill for pressure treated posts, etc.

Motion by Mr. Zaid to pay the bill as presented. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

7. Next meeting – October 3, at The River House.

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith did talk with Liz Robinson about Chapman Pond work to address the water issues at the entrance to that property. The TNC is also working on killing the stilt grass at Lefebvre.

Mr. Gelston noted there is still wood and reinforcement rod on his property that the CC purchased, that needs to be used.

Mr. Zaid suggested conducting a trails seminar before the 2018 Trails Day event to support new hikers. He also suggested creating a welcome package to new residents and including the maps.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- Conservation Commission Stewardship Project Priority