

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

December 5, 2017

Adopted January 2, 2018

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at 7:33 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, Marilyn Gleeson, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston. Guests in attendance: Bob Andrews, Thom Delventhal

2. Approval of Agenda

Change it from Special to Regular meeting.

Added "er" to Commission related to f. New Commission discussion.

Added i. Trail maps' printing

Added j. 2018 schedule

Changed Next meeting to January 2, 2018

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 11/14/17

Under Announcements and other discussion, changed Selectmen to Selectman.

Under 4.c. changed Appalachia to Appalachian

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

4. Approval of Stewardship and Forestry Sub-committee for 11/21/17

Under 3.a. changed why Mr. Smith is now a P&Z liaison

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 reviewed the updated priority list for review by the commissioners and reviewed the work still to be done on the top 11 properties.

Davison: Mr. Smith talked with the Public Works Administrator, Steve Hedler, who will address the stump removal on Davison. Mr. Hedler noted he will make a flat spot at the top, keep the cedars and chip what can be chipped leaving the larger logs. Mr. Smith expects that there will be an area needing grass seed next spring.

Sabine: A kiosk will be installed at the end of the paved end of Daniel Peck Road.

Dean: Reroute of “trail of confusion” and cable needs to be moved. The posts are routed for the orange, purple and white trails, but they are not painted yet. The Dean fence on the Harris property side will not be addressed this year.

Chapal Farm: Bollard still needed.

Lena: Trail clearing complete, and a map has been created. The white trail needs to be painted and then mapped.

Harris: There are some trees down on the orange trail that need to be addressed.

Rose Farm: The southern boundary still needs to be cleared out. The footbridge still needs to be installed but will be addressed in 2018 given how wet it is now.

Shugrue: Boundaries need to be tagged.

Lefebvre: Will be moved up to #8 and needs boundaries blazed and tagged.

Roaring Brook: Boundaries need to be tagged and blazed. There is ATV activity that must be addressed.

Hatch Lot: Roadside mowing and topsoil spreading is being handled by Public Works. Trails have trees down. The tall trees must be marked to improve the view to Long Island Sound.

Outreach and Promotion: Mr. Smith noted the CC is always looking for volunteers. Mr. Andrews joined to attend the meeting to learn more about the CC as he’s new to town, and may be interested in being part of stewardship work parties.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston has not been able to attend but has reviewed the meeting minutes. The only main activity the Commission is dealing with involves people looking to maintain their sea walls.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted the main focus has been on PoCD. There is a recommendation on the survey vendor for the PoCD survey. Travis Winkley’s request to have events on Smith Farm has not been decided. There was a lot divided into 2 lots on Moodus Leesville Road.

c. Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Smith reviewed what Ms. Gleeson provided in written comments (these were reviewed at the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee already). These will all be worked into the comments and submission. The PoCD approval process will include an Open meeting, a Public Hearing as well as the Town must vote on it to approve any changes.

d. Banner Lodge open space update

Mr. Smith talked with Mr. Ventres about the open space parcels. There is a need to set up a walk to review the potential open space. Mr. Smith will provide the date and time to Mr. Ventres who will inform Banner Lodge contacts that the CC will be walking. This coming Sunday, Dec. 10, at 1pm, is the proposed date for the walk. Ms. Goyette will post the walk with the Town Clerk’s office.

6. New Business

a. New bills

No bills to pay.

- b. Management plan template review  
Mr. Smith reviewed what management plans entail. He reviewed the Chapal Farm management plan that Lyme put together for the 7 acres they own. The plans can be very simple and are required for all open space. It is essentially a stewardship plan for each property. The plan is to put one together for all the properties. Ms. Gleeson will send the management plan template to Ms. Goyette who will provide it to the CC members.
- c. Conservation Commission State Statute related to PoCD  
Mr. Smith noted that all CC members received the State Statute. There were no questions.
- d. Review of open space prioritization list for stewardship  
Topic covered under the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee update.
- e. Former CY property  
Prior leadership of the decommissioned Connecticut Yankee power plant site was committed to protecting the property as open space. New leadership changed the direction, but there has been little to no interest from the public or from corporations to purchase the property. Mr. Smith has submitted a new letter supporting the new position to add about ~450 acres to the Silvio O'Conte wildlife area that is adjacent to it.
- f. New Commissioner discussion  
Mr. Delventhal is interested in joining the CC. There are 2 alternate positions open; an alternate is able to vote in the event that one of the regular members does not attend. There are a number of duties that the CC engages in. Interested people can fill out applications that are available on the Town's website, then attend the next CC meeting to discuss. If the CC thinks the candidate is a suitable candidate, the Chairman would recommend appointment to the Board of Selectmen.  
Mr. Delventhal joined the meeting and outlined his interest in the Conservation Commission. He is looking to understand more about the CC. Ms. Gleeson explained that the CC meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. There is a Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee that reviews the stewardship needs of the many properties the CC manages. There are currently 2 openings on the CC itself. There are regularly scheduled work parties arranged each month to keep the properties in great shape. The main part of the CC's mission is to actively manage the Town's Open Space, and the CC has installed over 20 miles of trails in the past few years. Town easements also fall under the auspices of the CC, but there has not been much progress on stewarding easements given there is no master list of them. There are maps now of each property that Ms. Gleeson has created. The CC has a very small budget, but works closely with Town Public Works that does much of the work that the CC needs. A big part of the work is to identify the property boundaries. There is Volunteer Activism sub-committee to increase volunteers and Outreach and Promotion sub-committee that focuses on educating the Town residents about the work the CC does. The CC now owns a brush mower that requires user certification to keep trails open and cleared. The CC has a CT statutory charge to steward the open space. Volunteers are very important to keep the trails and property in good shape.
- g. Former dump site discussion

The former dump site is now owned by the Town of East Haddam. It has a very nice overview of the Salmon River, and Salmon River Cove. The Town Public Works has cleaned up the area recently, and it would make a very nice observation area for bird watching and a picnic site. There will be a parking area near the road. Mr. Smith had them chip a bunch of logs and they mowed it twice. It would be really lovely to install a sheltered observation site for birders. This property needs to be added to the property list and be stewarded going forward.

h. Public Comment

Mr. Andrews provided his contact information to Mr. Gelston for inclusion in work party emails.

i. Trail maps' printing

Ms. Gleeson reviewed the new trail maps for Sabine and Lena properties and asked for comments. There is a printing needed of the Sabine and Lena maps.

Motion by Ms. Gelston that Ms. Gleeson use her discretion to reorder maps as needed.  
Second by Mr. Zaid and unanimously approved.

j. 2018 Schedule

Ms. Goyette will request the schedule form from the Town Clerk and fill out the dates. She will also reserve the River House for the January and February meetings.

Feb 6	August 7
March 6	September 4
April 3	October 2
May 1	November 6
June 5	December 4
July 3	January 8, 2019

7. Next meeting – January 2, at The River House.

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith provided an update on the budget. A fair amount of money has been spent on gravel and maps.

Mr. Smith also highlighted the CT Audubon Society's New Bird Atlas.

Mr. Smith asked the CC to think about the need for a flat file for survey maps.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

- EHCC 2018 PC&D Gleeson Comments
- The Habitat Fall 2017 volume 29 number 4
- Conservation Commission Stewardship Project Priority