

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

January 2, 2018

Adopted February 6, 2018

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 7:30 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, Sue Merrow, Todd Gelston, Marilyn Gleeson.

2. Approval of Agenda

Change it from Special to Regular meeting.

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

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 12/5/17

Changed date on 3. to 11/14/17.

Changed date on 4. to 11/21/17.

5.a. Changed Administer to Administrator, added "he" to the flat spot sentence.

5.a. Added Dean to fence under Dean property.

6. b. added "it" to the last sentence.

6.f. changed "and" to "an"

6.f. changed Thursday to Tuesday

6.g. added "they" before the mowing.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gelston noted not much has been done since the last meeting. The project schedule has been updated, but new work parties have not been scheduled yet due to the holidays. Due to temperature and snowfall, there may be a lull in the work parties in early 2018.

A volunteer has offered to clean up the rest of the downed trees on Lena.

Mr. Gelston noted the Shugrue property boundaries need to be tagged as does Roaring Brook and Lefebvre, but finding the pins may be hard until March. Discussion ensued, and the CC members decided to wait until the weather warms up a bit, before a work party embarks on finding the pins and marking the boundaries.

Outreach and Promotion: Mr. Smith noted the Events article has been provided and will be published in the next edition. The article is a explanation of how trail creation happens on a property, with a pitch to request additional community volunteers to help with stewardship.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted the big item on the agenda is to allow the conversion of the house across the street from Town Tavern to a business/retail space. There are a few standing ponds/vernal pools on the property. IWWC approved the installation of a larger septic field and additional parking. The matter now must move to P&Z, for their review. There is also ongoing discussion related to sea wall repairs on Bashan Lake and Lake Hayward properties.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted the Winkley property on Smith Road was approved with special exceptions for holding events there. The P&Z also approved the Consumer Reports building for tire testing and storage.

c. Complete Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Smith noted the updates have been made to the Plan as outlined at prior meetings and will be provided to P&Z for review and inclusion.

d. Banner Lodge open space update

Ms. Merrow, Mr. Gelston and Mr. Smith walked the property, which is a lovely property. Mr. Smith asked why the property is not going to be purchased fee simple; the owners want to retain use of the property for hunting, cord wood, etc. P&Z has already approved receiving it as a gift to the town as an easement, but has not been formally accepted by the town as that requires a Town Meeting and vote. Mr. Ventres will provide a written update on why the property is going to be gifted conservation easement rather than a fee parcel. An easement has been drawn up and filed already, but the process has not been followed related to how easements are handled. Mr. Smith and Mr. Gelston both noted that an easement will cause issues going forward; it will be a real headache to maintain open space when it's not outright owned by the Town. Mr. Smith noted next steps are that he will provide all the documents Mr. Ventres provides to him. Mr. Smith also will ask Mr. Ventres to attend the next CC meeting. Mr. Smith will draft a letter outlining the CC's concerns about the contents of the easement, its enforcement and how those things would affect open space and send it to P&Z and the Board of Selectmen.

e. Management plan template review

Tabled to next meeting.

5. New Business

a. New bills

No bills to pay.

b. 2018-2019 Budget Discussion

Mr. Smith provided the documents needed to create the budget for 2018-2019. The CC has a little under \$3500 in printing and binding. Right now, there is \$9575 left to spend in the current year. Discussion ensued related to what the 2018-2019 budget request should be. The CC members discussed and decided the budget request should be \$15,250, as it is this year. The CC also reviewed the Capital budget. For 2018-2019, Mr. Smith suggested the CC should request only \$5000 as there is quite a bit of monies left from prior fiscal years. The big capital

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, January 2, 2018

projects this year would be to build the Rose Farm bridge (~\$6000) and install several parking lots at ~\$2000 each (one for LeFebrve, Shugrue and Lord Wellington). In light of the improved cooperation by the Town Crew, the CC anticipates more capital funds will be spent, so much of the accumulated funds will be spent. Mr. Smith will request \$0 for 2018-2019, \$5000 for 2019-2020 and \$5000 for 2020-2021 fiscal years.

c. Public Comment

No public attended.

6. Next meeting – February 6, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Zaid noted Thom Delventhal is interested in joining the CC. Mr. Smith noted he needs to fill out an application and submit it for review.

Ms. Gleeson discussed with Mr. Smith the potential for the EHLT to help pay for another order of maps.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary