

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission
Forestry and Stewardship Sub-committee**

August 10, 2017
Adopted September 12, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Thursday, August 10, 2017, at 7:05 PM at Todd and Charlotte Gelston's residence on Bogel Road. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. New Business

a. Review of stewardship priority list for next 3 months

1. Davison - stump removal needs to be completed now to allow for grass to grow and take root. Public Works can be requested to address. Mr. Smith will discuss with Public Works.
2. Sabine – install kiosk, Mr. Zaid is working on one right now and will install.
3. Dean – complete re-routing of orange trail, aka trail of confusion, to ensure people are not walking through agricultural fields, this will be the focus of a work party on Sept 23. Move cable; Mr. Smith will address. Install junction trail posts on orange/purple and orange/white; this will be included as part of the work party during the orange trail re-routing.
4. Chapal Farm – Bollard needed on the west side at bridge; Mr. Zaid will address in the near future.
5. Lena – finish trail cutting and painting; this will be addressed at two more work parties - August 26 and Sept 9
6. Harris – requires only normal maintenance
7. Rose Farm – remark southern boundary; will be the focus of the Oct 7 work party.
*Weather dependent – Install footbridge; will be the focus of the Oct 21 work party.
8. Shugrue – tag and blaze boundaries; will be the focus of the Oct 21 work party.
9. Roaring Brook – tag and blaze boundaries; will be the focus of the Nov 4 and Nov 18 work party.
10. Zeleznicky – install parking area at a future work party.

Mr. Smith asked for a list of what Public Works needs to do:

- Zeleznicky, Urbanik, Lord Wellington – all need parking areas in the spring.
(Boundaries must be marked as people will begin using.)
- Hatch Lot – mow the road up to the vista, spread the 2 piles of top soil across the top.

b. Discussion on how to engage more volunteers

Mr. Gelston asked who the target audience is to volunteer for stewardship. Discussion ensued and the conversation outlined that it's hard to get people who are under 50 or 60 to engage. People under 50 or 60 work full-time jobs and want family time on the weekend. The EHLT posts it's work parties to all members, which is harder for the CC to do as there is no membership to provide work party information. Ms. Gleeson suggested putting together an event with a hike and use the opportunity to highlight how people can get engaged during a hike (trimming as you walk) to the more engaged work parties. Someone from the Community Lions could talk about the stewardship they do on the trails.

The group discussed hosting an event on Hatch Lot as it's got a large parking lot. The itinerary would be to hike to the vista with a meet and greet at the top with snacks. It's an excellent opportunity to highlight other volunteer work and how much it helps beautify the open space – the stones by R. Parady and Franklin Academy student volunteers. There must be a way to get people to the vista, in case the hike up is too much. There will be a presentation at the top – Mr. Smith would introduce himself as the chairman and would recognize Ms. Gleeson for her contributions to the town with the map creations, and review the various projects like the bridges, signage, the stone seating, etc. Refreshments will be provided. There are several different ways to hike out, highlighting what is needed for trail maintenance. It's about reminding people why the town is such a draw. One trail down would highlight the camping area the scouts installed. Mr. Zaid suggested having a fire going at the campsite where people can roast marshmallows. Mr. Smith noted we can ask Ms. Merrow to write the article highlighting the event, the cost per acre of open space (about a \$1) with one time expenditures for maintenance (costs are up front). The East Haddam Newspaper also can be used but requires a 10 day notification and should be posted multiple times to remind people. Sept. 15 would be for the Oct 8th event, and the reminder would be due on Sept. 25 to be on time for the event.

There will be 2 events – the first one at Hatch Lot and then a second one to be planned for an actual work party event where people can help clean and clear the trails as they go. The Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee will meet after the first event to discuss how the event went and start to plan the second event. A Stewardship and Forestry sub-committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 12 at 7pm at the Gelston residence on Bogel Road.

The Events magazine article could highlight both events, but will be after the fact given publishing dates. The best time is when there is fall foliage in full display.

An Events article must outline how the Town does not employ anyone who's responsible for open space maintenance; the CC is responsible for stewardship. There is an assumption that because the town helped on the Disc Golf course on Nichols, they are working on other properties.

Mr. Gelston suggested a road show to the Community Lions, Knights of Columbus, Lions club and Moodus Sportsmen's Club. Mr. Gelston will reach out to the local Boy Scout leader to find out if they are interested in doing another event, if there are any Eagle Scout candidates looking for a project and also find out if they have had a chance to camp at Hatch Lot.

c. New bills

\$220.23 Shagbark bill for posts, stain, roller covers, concrete forms, etc.

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

- d. Public comment
No public attended.

4. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith mentioned the Connecticut Federation of Planning and Zoning Agencies Quarterly Newsletter and an article related to a Lyme resident property owner with a conservation easement on the property who was sued by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. The courts found in favor of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust and are requiring the property owner remediate the property.

Ms. Gleeson mentioned that Sam Peckham and Ron Turner both need patches given all the work that they have each done on Lena and Urbanik, respectively.

Mr. Smith suggested putting a counter on certain properties to count how many people walk the trail. Mr. Zaid will conduct research on a people counter.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Conservation Commission Stewardship Project Priority