

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

March 6, 2018

Adopted April 3, 2018

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Office Building. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Joe Zaid, Rob Smith, Charlotte Gelston, Sue Merrow (by phone), Thom Delventhal

b. Appointment of alternates

Mr. Delventhal, alternate Conservation Commission member, is hereby appointed by the Chair Mr. Smith to replace Ms. Gleeson, Conservation Commission member, for the duration of this meeting or until she arrives to attend.

Mr. Zaid, alternate Conservation Commission member, is hereby appointed by the Chair Mr. Smith to replace Mr. Gelston, Conservation Commission member, for the duration of this meeting or until he arrives to attend.

2. Approval of Agenda

As this meeting is a Special Meeting, the agenda stands as presented to the Town Clerk, Town of East Haddam, CT.

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 2/6/18

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Smith worked a bit on the Dean property since the last meeting. The next work party was scheduled to be held this coming weekend, but is likely going to be cancelled due to the weather. In addition, the Board of Selectmen (BoS) have a public meeting to hear public comments on the budget this coming Saturday, so Mr. Smith could not attend a work party if one were held.

The IBA map, sent out in a separate email, was discussed. The Lyme IBA covers 65,000 acres and goes from I-95 in Old Lyme to Route 16 in Colchester. All properties in the IBA will get a sign indicating it is part of the Lyme Forest block IBA and will have the logo showing the protector of the property. The CC will likely be asked to help cover the payment for the signs. EHLT submitted a grant for the signs and also created a brochure.

Outreach and Promotion: Mr. Smith asked Ms. Gleeson to create a map to show all State of CT, Town of East Haddam, and East Haddam Land Trust (EHLT) properties with trails highlighted in red. Mr. Smith showed that map to the CC members and noted it will be included in the Plan of Conservation & Development (PoCD).

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Smith provided an update on the last meeting. Everything before the IWWC was approved except for 1 Wild Wood property that had an incomplete application. There is a site walk scheduled on the Ryczek property to build a new home and maintain a catch basin. The IWWC business was to request access to the lot off of Lakeside Drive. There were other site walks and field walks discussed and scheduled.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted that the PoCD was reviewed at the 2/13 meeting. At the last meeting (after 2/13), John Gowac at 123 Lakeside Drive received approval to his request to build a garage and put on a 2nd story. The Casner job on Town Street (across from Town Tavern) was approved. All 3 buildings will be turned into office/dry retail space. Mr. Smith noted there is a need for ADA parking over near the existing drive. Mr. Zaid will discuss with the P&Z at the next meeting. Mr. Zaid also noted Chapters 1-3 of the PoCD were reviewed at the last meeting. He noted there was discussion that it's the CC's responsibility to educate the public on recycling, as outlined in the current PoCD. Mr. Smith asked Ms. Merrow if she recalled there being any information about recycling in the State Statute related to the CC; she did not recall there being any reference. Mr. Smith noted that it is probably more the purview of the Selectmen or Public Works. It would be a great opportunity for the non-active Green Committee if it were still in force. There is already a huge amount of work on the CC's plate. Mr. Smith noted that must be changed in the PoCD.

c. Banner Lodge open space update

Topic will remain on the agenda but there has been no movement on the topic due to the move to the new town office building and weather issues preventing any further site walks.

d. 2018-2019 Budget discussion

Mr. Smith removed \$1,000 from the printing as discussed at the last meeting. The BoS has approved their budget. The Board of Education has approved their budget as well. Now the budgets must be presented to the Board of Finance for their review and approval to send to a Town Meeting.

e. Update on new commissioner appointment

Mr. Delventhal has been approved as a new alternate CC member, having been voted on in the last BoS meeting.

5. New Business

a. New bills

Williams Lea, Inc. \$635.50 for maps including in large format

Motion by Ms. Gelston to accept and pay the bill as noted. Second by Mr. Zaid and unanimously approved.

Shagbark \$23.96 for 4 5' u-posts used at Rose Farm

Motion by Mr. Delventhal to pay the bill as noted. Second by Mr. Zaid and unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith noted he is still waiting for the DEEP payment to replace the gravel used at Comer and paid for by the CC. All necessary receipts have been submitted; the CC is waiting for payment. Mr. Smith will follow up with his contact.

Mr. Smith also noted there is approximately \$9,100 left in the budget.

b. Public Comment

No public attended.

6. Next meeting – April 3, in Meeting Room #1, Municipal Office Building.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Ms. Merrow suggested getting pictures or a video of the preserves. Mr. Smith suggested it would be a great way to showcase the properties to get the townspeople more in the know of the work the CC has done on them. Ms. Merrow will reach out to the high school to find out if there are students who might be interested.

Ms. Goyette will follow up with Mr. Ventres about getting a box for the CC Recording Secretary in the mail slots with the other boxes.

March 17 is the CLCC conference. Mr. Zaid noted he will be attending and will sign up. He will attend in Mr. Smith's place. Mr. Delventhal is also interested in attending. The CC will reimburse him if he decides to attend.

Mr. Smith noted the EHLT has been awarded a \$17,500 grant for the Sikolsky property which is 19.5 acres, but the monies have not been received yet. It is being surveyed and closed on in a month, after which a conservation easement will be placed on it. It abuts Town of East Haddam open space off of Robbie Road and Joe Williams Road and will help the town and EHLT achieve its long term goal of having trails from the Elementary School to Golet Farm, which would encompass about 100 acres in total.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments

- Protected Open Space
- 2018 Schedule of Meetings (updated 3/4/18)