

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

East Haddam

Conservation Commission

April 3, 2018

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Office Building. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Paul Sienna, Rob Smith, Thom Delventhal, Sue Merrow, Joe Zaid, Marilyn Gleeson, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston

2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

1. Added 30 to 7:30 for meeting start, also changed the location of the meeting from the River House to the Municipal Office Building

1.b. changed she to he for Mr. Zaid's replacement

4.b. changed basis to basin

4.b. added as outlined in the current PoCD to the point about the P&Z section

4.b. added non-active before Green Committee

7. Updated section talking about the EHLT's grant submission for the Sikolsky property to show that the grant has been awarded but the money has not been received yet

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: There is not much to report due to weather limiting work parties. There is a work party scheduled this coming Saturday at Chapal Farm at 1pm, where the parking lot will be walked to pick up trash and the trails will also be walked to ensure they are clear.

Mr. Smith is sending an email to all its members to ask members to review any open space (town owned, EHLT owned, etc.) they frequent and report back to the EHLT if there is any stewardship activity needed.

Mr. Smith denoted that 80 tons of gravel will be shipped to the town from the State to reimburse the Town for the gravel used at Comer State Forest. There is another 30 tons still owed.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Hedler from Public Works to help with the ADA-trail at the Patrell property. There is tree clearing needed, as well as other work, and it would be a great help to

get that work completed. Mr. Zaid also recommended that the area be reviewed to install benches for people to sit on and rest. Due to the 4 nor'easters and the tree damage that occurred due to those March storms, there is a delay of about 3 weeks for Public Works to begin to look at the project.

Outreach and Promotion: The next article was submitted for the Events magazine. Ms. Merrow wrote about geology and human impact on town-owned spaces over time, in particular she highlighted all the things one can see related to these items. Ms. Gelston noted that she may have other people interested in joining the CC. Ms. Gleeson noted that the town map with all the open space and trails has been completed. It will be included in the PoCD and be 11x17 for size. The boat ramps and parking lots may be added but that depends upon sizing.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston was unable to attend given his attendance at a Board of Finance meeting.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid denoted the focus has been on PoCD review. There was discussion around additional items P&Z would like to have the CC address, like calling out where there are trails for horses. Ms. Gleeson noted that she has the list of activities per property for each trail. Ms. Gleeson will send the spreadsheet to the P&Z to show what the activities are that are outlined as appropriate use on trails.

Mr. Zaid also mentioned that the P&Z also wanted to put the purview of cemetery maintenance onto the CC's range of activities as well. Mr. Zaid and Mr. Ventres noted the CC is already fully engaged with town-owned open space stewardship and maintenance and cannot take on any additional work.

c. Banner Lodge open space update

Mr. Smith will revisit the topic with Mr. Ventres and gather all the information and constraints on paper. The CC will review the materials and make a decision on a course of action and recommendation at the next meeting.

d. 2018-2019 Budget discussion

A budget will be presented on April 10 at a Public Hearing at the High School. There is a 1.2% increase which equates to a 0.08 mil rate increase. The CC budget remained intact as was outlined in the last month's minutes.

5. New Business

a. New bills

\$1413.49 – Shagbark for diamond peers for bridge on Rose Farm (an approved project by the IWWC)

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

Mr. Zaid's CLCC \$75 registration fee

Motion by Ms. Merrow to reimburse Mr. Zaid for his registration fee. Second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

b. Public Comment
No public attended.

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

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Gelston noted former Commission's Peggy Carlson's service will be at the First Congregational Church on Sunday, May 6, at 2pm.

Mr. Gelston serves on the Republican Town Committee (RTC) and they are interested in sponsoring a trail day, like Pepsi did for a trail at Nichols. The RTC will work the trails and provide lunch. Mr. Gelston is thinking Hatch Lot or Harris are good spots as there is plenty of parking. A May or late summer/early fall are options for the RTC work party day. Mr. Gelston denoted that the focus is on serving the community, not a political event. Ms. Gleeson and Ms. Merrow will also ask the Democratic Town Committee if there is interest in taking part in the work party day with the RTC, given its focus on community service.

The Town-wide Clean Up is this Saturday, April 7 and the CC is encouraged to participate. This weekend's work party will be the official CC engagement in the Town-wide Clean Up.

Mr. Zaid suggested the month of April be denoted as Invasive Removal month. Mr. Smith talked about the honeysuckle poppers that are very effective to remove barberry. After much discussion, the CC decided to get one popper to try that for barberry removal.

Mr. Gelston denoted there is now 20 miles of trails to be maintained, and 20 additional miles of trails to be created. Mr. Sienna noted the importance of keeping the existing trails in great shape.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary