

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

July 3, 2018

Adopted August 7, 2018

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, at 7:29 PM at the Municipal Office Building. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Joe Zaid, Paul Sienna, Sue Merrow, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston. Others present: Gary Wilson.

2. Appointment of Alternates

Mr. Zaid will replace Ms. Gleeson who is not in attendance, as a voting member for this meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 6/5/18

3a. Added and blue after the reference to the purple trail. Replaced property with trails. Updated the sentence related to the large white oak to include “and on Mill Road at the east end of the blue trail”.

3b. Changed Reservior to Reservoir.

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

3. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Smith noted that the next stewardship party is moved to July 14 due to Joanne Rosniak’s funeral which is scheduled for next Saturday. The work party is 9-12pm with the goal to finish the work on the Hatch Lot and start on the Dean property. Mr. Smith mowed both the west and east side of Rose Farm. Most of Patrell was mowed. Mr. Smith mowed Harris orange trail - the east and west entrance. On the Hatch Lot, he mowed the blue, red and much of the purple trails.

At the last meeting, there was discussion about spraying herbicides on the town-open space. Mr. Smith notified Mr. Olzacki, the Town Maintainer, of the decision to not spray them on any town owned open space. Mr. Smith is still waiting to find out about what the requirements are for posting notifications for spraying. Mr. Olzacki noted he has an approved organic herbicide that could be used. Mr. Gelston mentioned he uses Pasture Pro and asked Mr. Smith if that is what Mr. Olzacki is referencing. Mr. Smith noted that he could not remember what Mr. Olzacki said and is waiting for him to tell him again.

Mr. Smith did give Mr. Olzacki permission to spray the phragmites at Hatch Lot parking lot – that is the only area that can be sprayed.

Mr. Smith noted he requested 12 yards of top soil for Hatch Lot parking lot. For Harris, he requested 3-4 loads of processed gravel for the road that runs back along the fence. For Davison, he requested 2 more loads of stone to help with the wet spots. For Lena, 4 loads are stockpiled there to fix the roads going to the east. For Dean, he requested gravel for areas that have eroded so that the pitch of the road can be fixed. There will also be 8-10 load stockpiled at the town garage for the CC to use as needed.

Mr. Smith showed the Important Bird Area signs that were made up, partially paid for by the grant awarded for it. Mr. Smith also showed the “Birds of Note in the Lyme Forest Block Important Bird Area East Haddam” pamphlet.

Mr. Smith noted he had also asked Ms. Gleeson to create a large format map that shows all properties, boat ramps, farm stands and a few others to post on the backs of the kiosks, since they are already protected under plastic. This will show the whole town with all those items outlined.

Mr. Smith noted that due to the focus on repairing the winter storm damage, there has not been time to focus on new trail creation. After the winter damage work is completed, the focus will be on putting a bridge over the brook to connect the 2 sides of Rose Farm.

Outreach and Promotion: Collaboration between Mr. Smith and Ms. Merrow resulted in an article that has been submitted to the Events magazine. The article alluded to the September stewardship event that will be posted in the town newspaper. It talked about how much enjoyment people can get from volunteering. Mr. Smith noted that if the CC funds the food and the event, then it removes any politics associated with the RTC, who originated the idea of the event. Mr. Gelston noted that it would be wonderful to get other town civic groups and others to be involved.

Volunteer Activism: Tabled to next meeting.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted he missed the last meeting. Mr. Smith was unable to attend the last meeting as well.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted that at the June 12 meeting there was a Public Hearing related to the Staehley’s request for a cider tasting building, which was then continued to the June 26 where the cider tasting building was subsequently approved. There was a 2-lot subdivision was proposed by Cameron Beard. Mr. Zaid provided initial results from the survey of the PoCD and noted that residents provided comments but they are inclusive. Mr. Zaid noted that the results were not much different than previous ones. The results will be published.

c. 2018-2019 Budget discussion

Mr. Smith noted that the fiscal year ended 3 days ago, with about \$6010 in the general budget and \$14,500 in capital. Capital rolls over to the next year so there is no concern that it will be taken away. Mr. Smith noted the budget was reduced slightly this year, as the CC members may have remembered.

d. Acquiring use counters

Mr. Smith noted that he purchased 2 and has received them. He reviewed a whole bunch of different options, and chose ones that he felt would be less open to vandalism. It has a date-stamp feature and provides a graphical representation of the data it collects.

4. New Business

a. New bills

\$250.00 STM Embroidery for 10 new shirts and 10 hats

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

\$373.30 Misterhoneysuckle LTD for 2 honeysuckle popper

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

\$755.23 Forestry Supplier for chaps, safety vests, backpack flame thrower, backpack fire extinguisher, etc

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

\$1132.30 Diamond Traffic Products for 2 trail counters

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

\$710.00 Essex Design & Display, Inc. for 20 signs, new sign for Tater Hill where it joins George Babcock Road

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

\$2692.86 Shagbark for bridge supplies

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

b. Reappointment of Commissioners

Mr. Sienna, Ms. Gelston, Ms. Gleeson, Mr. Zaid are all up for reappointment as of 6/30/18.

Mr. Sienna is interested in continuing for another 2 year term.

Motion by Ms. Merrow to recommend Mr. Sienna for another 2 year term to the Conservation Commission. Second by Mr. Smith and unanimously approved.

Ms. Gelston is interested in continuing for another 2 year term.

Motion by Ms. Mellow to recommend Ms. Gelston for another 2 year term to the Conservation Commission. Second by Mr. Smith and unanimously approved.

Ms. Gleeson is interested in continuing for another 2 year term.

Motion by Ms. Mellow to recommend Ms. Gleeson for another 2 year term to the Conservation Commission. Second by Mr. Sienna and unanimously approved.

Mr. Zaid is interested in continuing for another 2 year term.

Motion by Ms. Mellow to recommend Mr. Zaid for another 2 year term to the Conservation Commission. Second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith will send a letter recommending the 4 Commissioners who are up for reappointment be reappointed.

c. Public Comment

Mr. Wilson noted he would like to participate in the July 14 work party, but will be late.

5. Next meeting – August 7, in Meeting Room #1, Municipal Office Building.

6. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith noted that the next meeting will be televised.

The CLCC dues are due again. Last August, the CC paid \$300 membership fees. It is in the budget.

Motion by Ms. Mellow to pay \$300 for the CLCC dues. Second by Mr. Zaid and unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith also brought up that there is minor surveying work needed – to find a pin on the east side of Harris, to get the old mill and distillery’s boundary marked, to mark the boundary for the property east of North Moodus Road and a few others.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

- Conservation Commission 2-year terms
- Birds of Note In the Lyme Forest Block Important Bird Area East Haddam brochure