

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

August 7, 2018

Adopted September 4, 2018

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 7:38 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, Thom Delventhal, Marilyn Gleeson, Charlotte Gelston – arrived 7:49, Todd Gelston – arrived 7:49. Others present: Gary Wilson, Paul Buhl – left 8:14, John Buhl – left 8:14.

2. Appointment of Alternates

All regular members are in attendance, therefore no alternates were appointed.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 7/3/18

3.b. changed the PoCD comments to be inconclusive.

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

3. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Smith asked Mr. Gelston if he went and looked at Shanaghan Road property to see if it's a good property for timber harvesting. Mr. Gelston noted that he has not yet but will. Mr. Smith noted the last work party addressed the 2 junctions from Hatch Lot into Dean; there are now markers there. Mr. Smith is waiting for special boundary marking paint to eliminate any areas of confusion on the trails. All the trails have been cleared on Hatch Lot. The purple trail has been reblazed with a lighter purple to show up better. Where the blue trail comes off the vista, the team spent quite some time clearing it out. Mr. Smith will talk with Mr. Hedler to get back out there to do further work.

Mr. Gary Wilson did quite a bit of work at the parking lots and trail heads. He had made a suggestion to plan native plantings in those areas so he took initiative to purchase several viburnums. He has been digging out the phragmites that are there (which have quite a root system). He has been working on planting the viburnum with a plan to stake around them to keep the deer away. He also wants to post signage to alert and educate the public about the native plantings. The CC members voiced their approval and gratitude for this initiative. Mr. Sienna noted that the Patrell property is a great spot for a project

like what Mr. Wilson is engaged in. There is a stone wall with steps up to it, and it would be a great spot for consideration for future native plantings. Mr. Smith noted that he will take the signs and get them laminated.

Mr. Smith noted he has tried for 3 weeks or longer to get someone to talk about stockpiling the lumber for the Rose Farm bridge down by their property. He ran into the Director who requested a letter be sent asking for permission to store the lumber for the bridge as a way to get the materials close to the bridge site.

The next work party is scheduled for August 18 and the focus is to move the lumber to the area for the bridge construction.

Outreach and Promotion: Mr. Smith noted the article is in the Events magazine. The Sept event was discussed in the article but planning needs to be done. The date is Sept 22 and will be held on at Patrell. Mr. Gelston will write a press release for the town newspapers.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted there were a few applications for sub-division and building lot sites.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted that the first meeting was cancelled last month. There was a Special meeting on 6/18 and the PoCD survey company presented their findings for the P&Z to consider. Mr. Zaid will send the preliminary results to Ms. Goyette who will send it out to the CC members for their review. Mr. Zaid also noted that Cameron Beard's subdivision on Honey Hill was approved for 2 houses.

c. Reappointment of Commissioners

Mr. Smith has not received the letters on the reappointments but everyone was reappointed.

4. New Business

a. New bills

Ms. Gleeson asked about the map reprinting bill which Mr. Smith submitted for payment.

Motion by Ms. Gelston to pay the latest balance at Shagbark per the Chairperson's discretion. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

b. Discuss ADA-trail grant

Mr. Smith noted that \$8300 was awarded for the ADA trail by the Land Trail who will pass it through to the Town. The bulk of the funds will be used for the trail and purchasing native plantings for the downhill side. There is a tremendous amount of invasives that must be removed. There is also signage, paving the parking lot and other things to address the trail. The Scouts are going to help, and it will be a huge community effort to install it. This is the second attempt for this grant.

c. Potential Eagle Scout projects

Mr. John Buhl presented his proposal for an Eagle Scout service project proposal for a trail and bridges on Roaring Brook Open Space. He and Mr. Paul Buhl reviewed the proposal and the boundaries. There are 2 bridges that are part of the plan with a ½ mile trail. Mr. (John) Buhl noted he met with Mr. Hedler and there are several trees that likely need to be removed and there is a need for a backhoe to pull the timber back to the site. The proposal has not been submitted to the Boy Scout Troop Council yet. The project needs to be completed prior to March 2019, but the project would be implemented in October 2018. Ms. Merrow noted that any Eagle Scout project requires regular check in points to ensure there is progress and the project meets the standards outlined by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Smith asked Mr. (John) Buhl to attend the next meeting with his Scout Master. He also noted that once approved by the Conservation Commission, Mr. (John) Buhl will need to submit the bridge plans to the IWWC for their review and approval. Mr. Smith noted that while Mr. Ventres is the Town Planner, Town owned Open Space is stewarded and under the auspices of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Gelston emphasized that there is tremendous responsibility to ensure the bridge is certified for public use and that the foundation is strong enough to support it. He noted that the CC has installed several bridges, and has had to use a backhoe for some of them to ensure that when there are heavy rains, the foundation is substantial enough to handle the water flow and the bridge weight. Mr. Smith noted that the CC will discuss, and if determined that horses are allowed to use the bridge, there is a need for an engineered plan, which may include a cost. Mr. Gelston noted that while Mr. (John) Buhl will get plenty of direction, the CC is the group that has the responsibility so he asked Mr. (John) Buhl to ensure he keeps in contact with the CC. Ms. Merrow asked about a cost plan, which Mr. (John) Buhl has not created yet. Mr. Sienna asked for duration of time; Mr. (John) Buhl noted he has planned for the activity to be completed in 2 days. Mr. Smith noted that he will try to get to the property over the next few days to review the flagged trail. He has the standards that could be used, but it depends on the bridge needs. Mr. Gelston asked Mr. (John) Buhl to create the schedule prior to the site walk. Mr. Smith noted that the site walk will be organized prior to the next meeting.

Discussion ensued among the CC members.

Motion by Mr. Gelston for the Chairperson to discuss that the CC is looking forward to another Eagle Scout project and will discuss the project roles and responsibilities with both Mr. Buhls. Second by Mr. Sienna and unanimously approved.

d. Public Comment

No other comments provided.

5. Next meeting – September 4, in Meeting Room #1, Municipal Office Building.

6. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith noted that there was not much money left in the account from last fiscal year. Mr. Smith received a letter regarding the Connecticut Gateway Commission and that the standards are being reviewed with proposed changes. The public is welcome to attend the Public Hearing on August 15. Ms. Goyette will send along the proposed standards of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

- Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal, John Buhl Troop 44 Haddam BSA, Trail and Bridges on Roaring Brook Open Space Parcel with map
- East Haddam Code 12-4 Article III Conservation Commission (Adopted 6/15/1972)
- Conservation Commission Mission Statement with Purpose, Goals and implementation