

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

September 4, 2018

Adopted October 9, 2018

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, at 7:32 PM at the Municipal Office Building. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Appointment of Alternates

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

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 8/7/18

Agenda numbering is incorrect – it will be fixed before posting.

3a. Old Business – fixed Shanaghan Road and phragmites spelling

2. Updated attendees to change Matthew Buhl to John

4b. Changed Land Trail to Land Trust and added “on” to the 3rd to last sentence

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

5. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee Minutes for 8/29/18

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

6. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Sienna noted the Dean property was the focus of the last work party, and the party worked on $\frac{3}{4}$ of the orange trail until the bees attacked. Mr. Zaid will return to mow the Dean trail and parking lot, as well as the side of the rock wall. As Mr. Zaid will already be mowing, Mr. Smith asked him to mow Rose Farm as well as Harris on the east side. The west side of Harris may also need mowing. Patrell entrance, the access to the yellow trail and the esker trail also need to be mowed. Davison also could use some mowing on the trail at the beginning.

Mr. Smith noted that the CC has received permission to stockpile lumber at Ray of Light near the cemetery located close by the bridge site. The next work party will be on September 8 at

around 3ish and will focus on moving the lumber from Mr. Smith's house to the lumber storage location.

There was a proposal made at the August 29 Stewardship sub-committee related to bridge building (reference Forestry and Stewardship minutes 8/29/18: Motion by Ms. Gelston that the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee recommend a policy addition to the full Conservation Commission that all bridge construction projects henceforth fall under the aegis of the Conservation Commission from design through construction. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.) Mr. Gelston noted that this means that construction of any bridges will be completed by the CC members or contractors hired by the CC. All volunteers will fall under the direction and auspices of the CC if helping with any bridge construction.

Motion by Mr. Gelston for the CC to follow and approve the recommendation presented by the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee. Second by Ms. Merrow and unanimously approved.

Kiosks are needed at west end of the east section of Sabine, Roaring Brook at the parking lot, Davison at the parking lot and on the Lena property at the parking lot. Ms. Gleeson suggested that Urbanik needs a kiosk to replace the one that exists on Urbanik as the existing one now needs to be replaced. Discussion ensued about the need to relocate the kiosk to near the road. After the lumber is moved to the site near Ray of Light Farm, the next focus will be to build the bridge on said property. Mr. Gelston noted the need to ensure proper planning given where the bridge is located; it is not near the parking lot and concrete will need to be brought to the site. The bridge is only for bicycles and human foot traffic. Horses will have to wade through the brook.

Mr. Wilson has planted 4 viburnums around the parking lot at Hatch Lot, watering them as needed and weed whacking around them to keep the weeds down. Mr. Smith noted that it looks great. Mr. Wilson double checked with Mr. Smith about the sign lamination and offered to get them posted.

Outreach and Promotion: There will be a new quarterly magazine request for the next issue. Mr. Smith asked if there were any ideas for topics. Ms. Gleeson suggested Mr. Wilson and his volunteer work planting on Hatch Lot as well as invasive plants and the importance of native plantings.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted there is not much going on right now.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted the Aug 28 meeting held a hearing about the athletic fields at the municipal office complex. The hearing was continued. There will be design work done but no actual work completed yet. There is a P&Z site walk scheduled tomorrow at 5:30 on the field. Mr. Zaid showed the plans for the 3 fields and the drainage pond. Mr. Smith noted the issue that needs to be addressed is water flow to ensure there is adequate drainage for the site.

c. Potential Eagle Scout projects

Mr. John Buhl provided a letter to the CC withdrawing his Eagle Scout project proposal.

There are still many potential Eagle Scout projects for any interested Boy Scouts in the future. Mr. Gelston suggested a representative of the Commission attend an upcoming Boy Scout meeting to talk about the potential projects and discuss how interested the CC is in having other projects planned and implemented. Ms. Gleeson suggested Mr. Gelston reach out to the Boy Scouts and Mr. Sienna will join him. They will provide a report out at the next meeting.

7. New Business

a. New bills

No new bills to present.

b. September event planning

The September event is planned for Saturday, September 22, in the morning and will provide lunch. The property in focus will be the Patrell property. There are a number of things that can be done there needing volunteers. There is a need to clean the west side of the entrance, removing brush and invasive plants. Mr. Smith is arranging to have a volunteer bring his chipper (Mr. Gelston double checked that the only one using the chipper is the volunteer.) The Eightmile River committee would like to run a seminar on invasive plants at the event; Mr. Smith will flag out the area where there is winged euonymus that can be used for the training. The second part of the project the group will engage in is to plant blueberries and other native plantings. On the west side of the brook, work can be done to clean the area for a picnic area. There is likely other work that needs to be done to clean up the trail. Mr. Gelston asked about the trail markings and if they need to be reblazed. Mr. Smith noted the trails may be okay so that is likely not a needed activity.

Mr. Gelston has written up a communication for the East Haddam Newspaper and reviewed it with the CC, receiving edits and feedback. Ms. Merrow noted that information must be provided by tomorrow for publish date on the 6th. Mr. Gelston is trying to get the event posted 3 times in the paper. Mr. Smith noted that if there are lots of volunteers who show up, there is plenty of work for everyone to engage in. Mr. Smith will also bring the honeysuckle poppers which are good to remove barberry. Ms. Gleeson will take a walk out to review the property as well.

Ms. Merrow also suggested asking the EHLT to post it as well on the Land Trust site.

The CC discussed food, port-o-let (an ADA compliant one), rain date (there will be none), paper goods, coolers and garbage cans. Mr. Smith suggested having a short meeting before the event to review the plans, for Thursday, September 20, at 7:30 at the Gelstons' residence. Ms. Goyette will post the meeting and will attend to capture minutes. She will also send the announcement to Linda Z. to get posted on the East Haddam Calendar. She will also post it on the East Haddam Info Swap Facebook page.

c. Public Comment

Mr. Wilson suggested that it would make sense to provide a calendar to publicize the work parties and volunteer activities. Ms. Gleeson also noted the sign boards must be used much more often and regularly to ensure people know about work parties. The work parties also need to be included in the East Haddam calendar as well.

8. Next meeting – October 2, in Meeting Room #1, Municipal Office Building.

9. Announcements and other discussion

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Mr. Gelston asked about the Gateway Commission. Mr. Zaid noted P&Z gave the Gateway Commission suggestions and they were not approved. Based on the Gateway Commission there are a few hard points that no town can override. Mr. Smith attended and provided information although the official minutes are not released yet.

Mr. Smith noted he talked with Mr. Ventres who will attend the October meeting as requested at the August 29 Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee.

Mr. Sienna showed the map of the cross-country course at the High School that Ms. Gleeson made. He passed along the thanks of the coach to Ms. Gleeson.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- Photo of native plantings at Hatch Lot
- Letter from John P. Buhl recension of his Eagle Scout project proposal
- Stewardship Saturday press release