

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

January 8, 2019

Adopted February 5, 2019

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 7:36 PM at the Municipal Office Building. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Marilyn Gleeson, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston, Thom Delventhal, Gary Wilson, Sue Merrow – arrived 7:46.

2. Appointment of Alternates

Mr. Delventhal appointed as alternate member for Ms. Merrow until she arrived.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 12/4/18

6.b. Clarified the final sentence.

6.e. Removed “from the public who joined.” as no public joined.

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Smith updated the group around the Rose Farm bridge that is being built. 54’ of the bridge has already been built; ramps need to be installed as one of the next work projects. Ms. Gelston asked if the bridge will support horses; Mr. Smith noted that it will not and signs will be posted as such. On the subject of Rose Farm, Mr. Smith is going to ask at the next Selectmen’s meeting for permission to put some of the CC stockpiled gravel on the road that leads to the bridge. The road also leads to the 2nd Burial Ground cemetery. Discussion ensued. The road is privately owned and so the CC would request for written permission from Ray of Light to put gravel on the road before it’s completed, but after the Selectmen approve. The CC members would like for Mr. Smith to discuss with the Selectmen.

Prior to moving to Roaring Brook to mark boundaries, several future work parties will continue to work on the bridge at Rose Farm.

Mr. Smith will ask Public Works to put crushed stone and gravel down on the yellow trail on the west half of Rose Farm.

Mr. Smith noted the ADA trail at Patrell has been surveyed; Mr. Smith has notified Public Works that they can work on the trail when they have time.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow provided another article to the Events magazine related to invasive species, given there is a documented case of kudzu found in East Haddam. She also mentioned that she also gave a nod to Gary Wilson's work on planting native plants. Mr. Gelston noted that the next Stewardship Day is April 13 and the CC needs to create a plan to advertise it. The East Haddam News and the Town's web site will be used to get the word out about the event. The event will happen in the morning from 9 – noon with lunch provided. Sandwiches will be provided; Ms. Gelston offered to provide brownies. There is no plan right now for what the stewardship event will cover or what property will be the focus. More discussion will ensue at the next meeting.

Volunteer Activism: Mr. Smith noted that Aidan Behilo is interested in doing an Eagle Scout project but which town property he is looking to complete a project in is not known. Discussion ensued around the need to publicize that the CC is highly interested in partnering with Eagles Scouts. The CC members discussed writing an article for the East Haddam News highlighting all the projects already completed successfully for Eagle Scouts in the past. Ms. Merrow noted that East Haddam Youth and Family Services reached out to discuss with her their thoughts on developing healthy activities for families; she will provide further details at the next meeting.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston was not able to attend, but reviewed the meeting minutes. No major projects are in the works.

P&Z – Mr. Smith was not able to attend the last meeting.

c. Potential future Eagle Scout projects

No update as Mr. Sienna was not able to attend.

d. Using Public Works/budget discussion

Mr. Smith met with East Haddam Finance Director and noted that the CC is requesting the same amount as in the previous budget, but he did discuss at length the need for Public Works engagement. If they are not able to support, the CC will need other monies. An additional \$5000 was added to the capital budget as a contingency plan in case Public Works is not able to provide support. The Finance Director has also provided further details to the Board of Finance to outline what the CC's stewarding. There are 21 miles of trails on town-owned open space, 15 total properties are being stewarded, there are between 50-75 miles of boundaries to be maintained and 10 bridges that have been built and thus must be maintained. Mr. Gelston also noted it is important to highlight the amount of volunteer labor that has been contributed to steward the properties. Mr. Smith will provide that detail to the Finance Director as well.

Mr. Smith noted there is a budget of \$14,000, and \$3000 has been spent already. Ms. Merrow suggested that a ribbon cutting and photo be taken and posted in the East Haddam News, when the Patrell ADA trail is completed.

6. New Business

a. New bills

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\$660.79 Shagbark for 2 diamond piers for the bridge, lumber and other work party supplies

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

\$79.55 Deep River Rental for jack hammer

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

\$154.73 Amazon 500 piece bucket of headlock screws

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

b. Public Comment

No comments from the public who joined.

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

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Gelston asked if there was any follow up on Paul Buhl's Freedom of Information request. Mr. Smith noted that he has not heard anything else related to the request.

Mr. Delventhal cannot attend the next 2 Conservation Commission meetings but is able to join the Saturday work parties.

Mr. Wilson drafted guidelines for public posting of events on the Town's website and FaceBook page. The CC reviewed and provided feedback. Mr. Gelston noted that the CC needs to reach out to all the different town websites. Ms. Goyette offered to address formatting and will add an "Adopted" date at the top of the document upon adoption. Final review and adoption will be addressed at the February meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Conservation Commission Guidelines for Public Posting of Events