

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

October 9, 2018

Adopted November 6, 2018

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Office Building. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Paul Sienna, Thom Delventhal, Sue Merrow (via phone), Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston, Marilyn Gleeson, Joe Zaid – arrived 8:24. Others present: Gary Wilson, Bernie Gillis – arrived 8:27, departed 8:45.

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 9/4/18

7b. Changed strawberries to blueberries and native plantings

7b. Added a dash to port-o-let

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

5. Approval of Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee Minutes for 9/20/18

Motion by Ms. Merrow to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Delventhal and unanimously approved. Ms. Gleeson and Mr. Smith abstained.

6. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Sienna updated the group on the last stewardship event on Sept. 22, at Patrell. There were 15 people in attendance. The brush has not been picked up due to the 6” of rain that fell the next week in one day. Public Works is still going to pick up the brush. Mr. Smith noted that the 2 center lines of the ADA path were cleared; an engineer or surveyor needs to come in so that the Town can rough it out and then it will be restaked to ensure the grade still meets the standards. Mr. Smith received a call from the neighbor who is very unhappy about the work that was done at Patrell as no notification was provided. Mr. Smith noted he had a pleasant discussion with the neighbor who now knows what is going on there.

On Patrell, the 6” of rain that fell on Tuesday, Sept. 25, added so much water to the Eightmile that it pushed the bridge out of alignment, but did not damage the abutments or piers, such that the bridge now has a slight curve to it. There was also a picnic table jammed against it. Mr. Smith noted that the bridge is now in the process of being bolted such that it does not move again. The bridge was always safe, just was not straight. Mr. Gelston launched discussion on what could be done further to ensure there is not another problem in the future. There is a beam underneath that could be removed to allow another 8” inches of water to run under it.

Related to the Patrell Stewardship event, Mr. Gelston noted that while the trees and brush were cleared away, now there is stone work that must be accomplished to keep it looking great. Mr. Gelston suggested potentially removing the stone wall and having a natural grade. There was discussion related to what to do to the area next. Split rail fence will look nice at the top of the wall, if the wall is kept. The next Stewardship meeting will be held at the Oct. 25 at Gelston residence at 7:30pm. Ms. Goyette will post the agenda.

Mr. Smith noted that all the other bridges were good, including the bridge on Harris.

The parking lot at Boot Rock needs more work too due to the flooding.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Zaid conducted initial work on where the bridge should be located on Rose Farm over the weekend. This coming weekend is the RiverFest weekend, and therefore there is no work party. The next work party will be Oct. 20 at Rose Farm to work on the bridge.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow submitted the article with a picture of Gary Wilson with the shrubs he has planted.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted nothing to report.

P&Z – Mr. Smith noted that the PoCD is still being discussed, along with other topics.

c. September event review

Mr. Gelston asked the CC if there were any lessons learned to get more attendance. Mr. Smith noted that the newspaper must know that the article needs to be repeated. There was a good turn out, but Mr. Smith noted that the attendees were mainly folks already known to the CC. It would be nice to get more new people and younger people to join. In the future, multiple projects are needed to ensure people are not on top of each other. Mr. Delventhal noted that the group made quick work of the projects. Mr. Gelston noted that there needs to be more of a social media presence, road side signs, an advance article in the Events Magazine, and personal contact are key. Mr. Gelston went and talked with the Boy Scout Troop leader but they needed more time to prepare for the event. There was discussion around having one of the volunteers write a letter about the event and send it to the newspaper. Ms. Merrow noted that the CC needs to figure out how to crack the social media code a bit more. It also needs to be put on the town calendar. Mr. Gelston suggested a spring event, which the group talked about. April 6 with a rain date of April 13 were discussed. For food, Ms. Gleeson suggested doing sandwiches, which can be ordered as people show up. Ms. Gelston offered to make brownies again. Ms. Merrow offered to write a press release for the newspaper to showcase

what was completed and talk about the upcoming spring event. Ms. Goyette sent the picture out to the CC members and Ms. Merrow can use some of them for the press release.

d. Potential future Eagle Scout projects

Mr. Gelston ran into an Eagle Scout at Shagbark who is working to raise funds to renovate the bleachers at the American Legion ball field. Mr. Gelston noted there are other Eagle Scouts around that need projects to work on. Mr. Sienna will ask the local scout master for the meeting times and dates and work to get him and Mr. Gelston on the agenda to talk through Eagle Scout project opportunities. They will report out next month. Mr. Gelston noted that the CC could prioritize the properties for any interested Eagle Scout. Davison property is an excellent example. Ms. Merrow spoke with one of the members of the Community Lions, but has not heard back on any issues that are on the trail.

7. New Business

a. New bills

\$127.73 Shagbark for work party supplies

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

\$397.02 Amazon for Anchor bolts for bridge

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

\$274.06 Home Depot for drill bits

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

\$18.34 Shagbark for water

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

\$250.00 Hot Dog Girl

Motion by Mr. Sienna to accept and pay the bill as noted. Second by Mr. Delventhal and unanimously approved.

\$15.13 7-11 gas for the lawn mower

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

b. Public Comment

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Mr. Wilson noted it would be good to have a calendar that could be referenced by the general public.

8. Next meeting – November 6, in Meeting Room #1, Municipal Office Building.
9. Announcements and other discussion
This coming weekend, October 13, is the RiverFest weekend. The CC will have a table and would like to have volunteers attend to man the table. The table will be 1-4pm at Devil's Hopyard in the picnic grounds.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inlands Wetlands Commissions, Inc.