

East Haddam
Conservation Commission
Forestry and Stewardship Sub-committee
October 25, 2018

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Thursday, October 25, 2018, at 7:34 PM at Todd and Charlotte Gelston's residence on Bogel Road. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Paul Sienna, Joe Zaid, Marilyn Gleeson, Rob Smith, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston – arrived 7:50, Sue Merrow – arrived via phone call 8:03, departed 8:47.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. New Business

a. Schedule of work parties

This coming Saturday is a standard scheduled work party, but it is being postponed due to the rain. The CC discussed holding a work party on Saturday, Nov. 3, 11 – 3pm. The focus will be working on building the Rose Farm bridge. The bridge will take several weekends to get completed.

Mr. Zaid has mowed the red trail on Rose Farm and did note a few trees are down; there is also a tree down on the blue trail near the bridge.

Harris needs to be mowed and there is also trimming needed on the west side of the orange trail.

Mr. Zaid mowed all the orange trail at Dean and did not see anything that needed work.

Hatch Lot needs to be visited to see if there is any remaining storm damage to clean up.

For Davison, Mr. Smith needs to ask the Town Crew when they will be able to put more stone on the road as well as clean up the brush.

On Lena, the whole red trail needs to be trimmed and the connector trail needs to be blazed.

Mr. Smith noted another trail is needed at Lena, but it is more important to mark the boundaries at Roaring Brook first.

The plan is to use the Nov work parties for Rose Farm work, then move to Roaring Brook and then move back to Rose Farm to complete the bridge work. Shugrue will follow for work parties.

b. Next steps at Patrell

The bridge that was moved in the recent flooding has been put back in place. There is one more abutment that must be addressed. A welder is needed to weld plates onto the I-beams on the bridge. Mr. Smith will find a commercial welder to address the plates. The concrete needs to be poured on the abutment on the other side as well.

Mr. Smith noted that one of the volunteers from the September stewardship event brought additional volunteers from Goodwin College and Three Rivers who are helping with the ADA trail completion, addressing the native planting.

Mr. Smith noted that he investigated the stone wall and discovered it is a single face wall. As such, Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Gelston is correct in that the wall will need to be removed and the area graded down. Mr. Smith will ask the Town Crew to remove that and use the rocks to fill in the old shelter that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Gelston noted that the Route 82 parking lot has washout, but Mr. Smith drove into the parking lot and did not see any washout.

c. Other Stewardship topics

On the south end of Pizinni where the horse ring is, there is a dead ash tree that needs to be removed. There are now 4 trees that need to be removed around that area. The Town Crew is not going to remove them, so the First Selectman noted that the CC must pay to remove the trees. Ms. Gleeson asked that the parameters be outlined for when the Town Crew will provide support and when they will not. Mr. Smith will write a letter to the Selectmen requesting a policy be created around when the CC can request Town Crew support and when they cannot.

Mr. Gelston noted that if the CC identifies a tree that needs to be cut down, the CC must have the latitude to hire a contractor that can address the trees.

Ms. Merrow asked for clarification around what dead trees are in scope for the CC to address. Mr. Smith noted that trees reported to the Selectmen as needing to be addressed are the ones that sit on the border and are near buildings on private property. These are the trees that need to be addressed.

The CC budget will need to increase to address the additional tree removal expense. Mr. Gelston noted it is clear that the CC has responsibility for the property and to address the trees. Mr. Gelston also noted that the CC needs to also have the authority to resolve the issue and funds to remove trees as necessary to prevent Town liability. Mr. Smith will denote this within the letter as well.

d. Public comment

No public attended.

4. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Sienna is talking with the Troop 22 Boy Scout leader at an upcoming high school track meet and will invite him to attend the Nov. 6 CC meeting.

The Plan of Conservation and Development workshop is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 29, at 7pm, to get further ideas to be included in the PoCD. Mr. Smith noted that the more vocal people are about open space, (Ms. Gleeson noted the same thing), the better it is to get ideas out there. Mr. Zaid noted /that none of the CC's comments have been provided to P&Z, but P&Z has not begun to review the overall comments, except for a few public letters. Mr. Smith will send the CC comments to the P&Z chair. Mr. Gelston asked that as many CC members attend the meeting as possible. Mr. Smith will ask EHLT members attend the meeting as well.

Ms. Gleeson ordered more Chapal Farm maps as they are being used quite a bit. Mr. Smith will post one of the counters on the Pizinni piece to get a count as to the number of people who are using the property. Mr. Smith also met with the wildlife people to address a wet spot, which is near the parking lot off of Salem Road, about 300 yards where the trail goes down an old abandoned road.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary