

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

April 2, 2019

Adopted May 7, 2019

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at 7:31 PM at the Municipal Office Building. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

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

2. Appointment of Alternates

Mr. Zaid, alternate, has been appointed as a full voting member due to the absence of Mr. Sienna.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 3/5/19

6a. Update 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph adding “some” before gravel, and added “on the trail near the parking lot”

7a. Updated the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last sentence to change “donating” to “contributing”.

7b. Last sentence of the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, changed “joined” to “contacted”.

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Smith noted that more work has been done on the Rose Farm bridge, with 5 volunteers spending 15 hours getting more completed. The main bridge has been decked, the ramp to the west has been decked and the east ramp is installed but not decked. The corners are not completed yet; Mr. Smith will get more work completed this weekend if the weather holds.

Mr. Smith contacted the State about the reimbursement of purchase of 120 tons of gravel used at the Comer property last year.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow noted that the next Events article has been turned in. It is about the collaboration with East Haddam Youth & Family Services and its Choose Wellness campaign and how having open space helps people choose wellness.

Volunteer Activism: Ms. Merrow also sent Mr. Fournier (of East Haddam Youth & Family Services) information about the upcoming stewardship event.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted there are 3 activities of note. One is a request for a 2-lot subdivision near Rose Farm, the old Cold Spring Farm (Charlie Farrow’s old place). There is no encroachment on Town-owned open space.

P&Z – there are 2 items coming to Public Hearing – 44 Laurel Cove and Cold Spring Road.

c. Aidan Behilo Eagle Scout Project Proposal update

Mr. Smith noted there was a lovely article in the paper last week, and Mr. Behilo is moving forward with his plans to work on the Davison property.

6. New Business

a. Stewardship event

Mr. Gelston provided handouts with answers to the questions asked at the last meeting. Mr. Gelston reviewed the action items with the group. Parking will be beyond the gate and on the side. Ms. Merrow noted that we need to have a first aid kit; Mr. Zaid will bring the one he has. Ms. Merrow provided the group with an update on how lunch will be handled (via Hadlyme Country Market). Mr. Zaid will talk with Linda Z. in the Selectmen’s Office and Mr. Smith noted that the EHLT has 2 tables, possibly 3, for use. Mr. Zaid will also clear a spot for the port-o-let, as Mr. Gelston has already ordered one to be delivered. Mr. Smith will bring trash cans and tarps.

b. ADA path and planting

Mr. Smith noted the grant has been received to build and plant the ADA trail on the Patrell property. Mr. Wilson met with one of the Eightmile River directors and talked about who will be supporting the project (i.e., students from Franklin Academy, Goodwin College, etc.). Initially the thought was to have the students help create the plan, but given the time needed to pre-order the plants, Mr. Wilson chose the plants that will work for that area, and will engage the students to help plan which plants can go where. There are a very good variety of plants for the students to choose from. There will be 160 plants that need to be planted and a watering plan needs to be created to ensure they do not die. There is 500 feet that requires planting on both sides of the trail. There will be multiple articles posted in various news sources as well.

c. New bills

\$39.99 – Shagbark for paint and brushes

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

d. Public Comment

No public joined the meeting.

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

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith noted that a good portion of our town in in the Lyme Forest IBA, and will provide a presentation at the Grange on April 17, 7 – 8:30pm, “What Birds Need Year Round”.

The conveyance fee bill, which the East Haddam Selectmen unanimously voted in support of, did not pass due to 5% against the bill.

Town-wide Clean Up is this weekend, April 6, at 8am. Please consider signing up for this event.

There is roughly \$9000 left in the budget and the monies have been moved to a non-lapsing account to ensure that the monies will roll over such that the CC does not lose it as it waits for bills to come.

Mr. Smith got permission to pay for overtime to the Town Crew given that there is so much work to be done around town. The work will be done on Patrell using the Town Crew.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Answers to Questions and Action Items