

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

May 7, 2019

Adopted June 4, 2019

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 7:32 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, Todd Gelston – departed 8:01 and then rejoined 8:12, Charlotte Gelston, Paul Sienna.

2. Appointment of Alternates

Mr. Zaid, alternate, was appointed as a full voting member due to the absence of Ms. Merrow. Mr. Wilson, alternate, was appointed as a full voting member due to the absence of Ms. Gleeson.

3. Approval of Agenda

Changed Next Meeting to June 4, instead of May 7.

Bills will be addressed first to ensure that Mr. Gelston is present for that voting portion.

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 4/2/19

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: The next stewardship event will be at Roaring Brook for Saturday, May 18. The focus will be the boundaries and painting the trails. Mr. Smith noted that at the old dump site on Rt. 149, there is now a gravel path from the entrance out to the point, as the gravel owed to the CC from the state (120 tons; it was used to spruce up Comer State Forest in time for the rededication last summer) was finally delivered. Several loads were dumped at Lena and Rose Farm and the rest stockpiled at Public Works. The old dump site will also have gravel put down on the parking lot. Mr. Smith was approached by a potential Eagle Scout to perhaps create a look out at the old dump site. Mr. Smith walked up to Davison and there is a nice pad at the top, with the road being passable all the way up. There is one issue with a leak off that must be addressed as it is going onto private property.

Mr. Smith noted he has received another inquiry from another Eagle Scout candidate; there may be an additional project in the future with the CC.

Outreach and Promotion: Everyone should have seen the article in the Events magazine, as the recent edition was delivered.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report at this time.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted that Shagbark is expanding which has been in the works for awhile, there are still some outstanding issues with the state that need to be addressed.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted that May 28, there will be Public Hearing on 29 Daniels Road for a subdivision, Commerce Drive special exemption, and 40 Johnsonville Road special exemption to convert a resident to a religious building. On May 14, the Public Hearing will continue for Shagbark review for expansion.

c. Stewardship event

Mr. Gelston provided a synopsis of the event. It was very good and provided good intelligence for future events. He noted that while there was quite a bit of advertising, the people who showed up responded to the road side signs. Road side signs proved to be the most powerful means of informing people. There is quite a bit of work to still be done on Roaring Brook. Only ½ of the boundaries were marked, and the crews were working as quickly as possible. The food plan worked out really well. The Boy Scouts participated and several neighbors joined as well. Now that this has started, it must be kept going to draw more participants. The time of year is excellent as the bugs were not out in force. Mr. Gelston noted that the last Saturday of September or the first Saturday in October (October 5) would be an excellent date for the next event. The Shugrue property may be a great option for the fall Stewardship event.

Mr. Smith is going to reach out to Northeast Utilities to see if they will put down some gravel that is easier to walk on the road/path at Roaring Brook. Mr. Gelston noted that it would be a good idea to move the gate to allow better access/parking. Mr. Smith noted he can ask the Town Crew to move the gate.

d. ADA Path and plantings

Franklin Academy has 2 work days planned on May 15 -16 from 9:30 – 1:30; Mr. Smith will provide Mr. Wilson with additional information. The students will focus on planting the pollinator garden. Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Wilson will need to place the plants for the students to plant. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Smith to bring tools from the CC to ensure that the students have planting implements. Mr. Wilson would like for wood chips to be provided to cover the area. The pollinator plants must be planted soon; as such the stone wall will be removed and area graded as well as the recent cuttings will be removed by the Town Crew. The Town Crew noted that the area will be ready for the students to plant.

Mr. Smith will also talk with Public Works to take the concrete remnants and fill in the fall-out shelter to ensure that it is addressed for safety reasons.

The plants will be placed throughout the whole ADA trail area, not just where the site work has been done.

6. New Business

a. New bills

\$85.00 Olsen's Sanitation for Roaring Brook port-o-let

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

\$2392.19 and \$1462.00 Coit Excavating for gravel and stone for Davison property and other properties

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

\$239.10 Shagbark for misc stewardship items

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

\$3200.00 Richard Gates surveying for Robbie Road property that had boundary questions

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

Points of information on bills:

- \$1200.00 Richard Gates land surveyor, center line for Patrell – covered under grant received from National Parks Service administered through EHLT.
- \$2034.88 gravel for Patrell ADA path – covered under state grant

b. Public Comment

No members of the public were in attendance.

7. Next meeting – June 4, in Meeting Room #1, Municipal Office Building.

8. Announcements and other discussion

There is a boundary issue with a piece of property on Robbie Road with one of the neighbors, which will likely require additional town resources to address. There is an old town road that has an issue regarding ownership that requires resolution. There were no pins on this property, but there were pins found from an adjacent property owner. The issue goes back to when the High School was built in the early 1990s. Mr. Smith noted that he did mark the boundaries on this piece of property.

Mr. Smith noted that for future map printings, Essex Printing will be used. For the budget, there is still \$9000 left as of right now, but the bills must be paid that were approved at this meeting.

Mr. Smith ordered 3x8x16 to build swamp walks.

He noted that Middlesex Land Trust has been using wire lath/mesh to prevent slipping on bridges that do not get sun and thus do not fully dry out. This may be a good idea for bridges on town land that do not fully dry out.

Mr. Smith noted that the east side of the Harris property is filled with invasives and was reviewed by the Town for brush hogging. The Town cannot brush hog it, so a contractor will review to provide a quote. Patrell and Lena also have big areas of invasives that will be addressed by the contractor too. Notice of tentative determination to approve NPDES Permit Renewal for the wastewater treatment plan provided to the CC given that in many towns the CC is part of IWWC.

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, May 7, 2019

There was a fairly good turnout for “What Birds Need” presentation.

Town Wide Clean Up had a fairly good turn out and seemed to have more people involved than in years’ past.

Mr. Smith will lead a trail walk on Hatch Lot in early afternoon and then on Harris in late afternoon on June 1st Trails Day.

Mr. Wilson asked about the Nehantic State Forest controlled burns. Mr. Smith noted that at the beginning of the property, there is a big sign denoting the controlled burning experiment. It simulates what the forests likely looked like when the first colonists arrived.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary