

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

June 4, 2019

Adopted July 2, 2019

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at 7:33 PM at the Municipal Office Building. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Paul Sienna, Marilyn Gleeson, Sue Merrow, Gary Wilson, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston.

2. Appointment of Alternates

No appointments necessary as there is a quorum of regular members.

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 5/7/19

2. changed “has been” to “was”

5b. changed addition to edition.

5d. added “ADA trail” to the last sentence.

6a. Changed Mr. to Ms. for Shagbark bills.

6a. changed state grant to “grant received from National Parks Service administered through EHLT”.

6b. Changed how members of the public are referenced.

8. Changed Middle to High in reference to Robbie Road. Clarified the road issue.

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Smith noted that 4 people worked on Roaring Brook, continuing the work that was started at the April Stewardship event. Work was completed for the bridge site work. Eversource cleared the cedars that were below the powerlines, and also clear cut quite a bit of acreage that was unexpected. There are still boundaries that need to be marked.

Mr. Smith got a price for a hydro-x machine to address the invasives; it is roughly \$1600 a day.

Mr. Smith spent several hours with the Franklin Academy kids for their capstone classes. For the 2 little bridges on the red trail that were installed at Patrell (1 was washed away and 1 was moved but needed to be set back into place), the kids helped set the one that had moved and

redid the one that had washed away. They also worked at clearing a number of trails, which was very helpful. Franklin Academy has been working with the CC and EHLT for a number of years already as part of their community service focus.

Mr. Gelston noted that the next stewardship event is only a few months away. He noted that Sept. 28 or Oct. 5 were the dates that were discussed as dates for the fall event. The thought is to hold the Fall Stewardship event on Sept. 28 with a rain date of Oct. 5. As learned at the last event, the roadside signs were what resulted in getting the most community participation. The location for the event would be Shugrue for boundary marking (preliminary work needs to be done to know where the boundaries are) and preliminary trail work as well. Mr. Smith noted that getting the word out to the East Haddam News is still a good idea, but roadside signs are a great idea. Mr. Smith noted that it may be a good idea to coordinate with Cold Spring Farm, as they have events there often. Lunch will be addressed in the same manner as it was used at the spring event. Ms. Merrow will scout out the lunch options and report back to the CC, given the proximity to Colchester.

Mr. Wilson stopped at the Hatch Lot and dug up and chopped down as much phragmite as he could. Mr. Smith saw an organic herbicide made by Bonide, which is certified for organic gardens called BurnOut or BurnOff. Mr. Wilson will look into that, as spraying is really the only way to get the phragmite under control. Mr. Wilson also fertilized the vibernum and saw a number of native plants coming up around and near them.

Outreach and Promotion: The Events magazine is out and hopefully everyone saw it and read the article. Ms. Merrow and Ms. Gleeson are meeting with John Fournier from East Haddam Youth and Family Services around the creation of a map that can be used to get right to the map of a certain property. Mr. Smith is meeting with him on the scheduled hikes later this week.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report at this time.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted nothing to report as he was not at the last meeting; however he noted that things are pretty quiet overall.

P&Z – Mr. Smith noted that P&Z approved the Shagbark application for a new building. Also approved was the conversion of a house at Johnsonville to a 10-person seminary. The 29 Daniels Road subdivision was approved, which is the Guptill property, with a lot being split into two. Commerce Drive was approved for the store and storage for the landscaping company.

c. ADA Path and plantings

The section of the ADA path closest to the Eightmile is almost to the grade that is needed. The big loop has not been started yet; Public Works is paving Petticoat. The overtime transfer is working well though with Public Works addressing the ADA path. The focus right now is the pollinator garden. Mr. Wilson, along with the Eightmile River group, planted many plants already but there are still more plants to plant. Franklin Academy kids did not join the prior week to work on plantings as well. The college kids could not join due to their schedule. The area has been mulched with the exception of at the top of the hill. There is an area for coarse chips to be placed to highlight a path. Along the driveway, there will be a split rail fence put

in place. The rain made coordinating with Public Works hard to do, but it is coming along quite nicely. The plan is to have a ribbon cutting when it is complete. The ADA path is the only path of its type along the Eightmile River.

6. New Business

a. New bills

\$2606.90 Shagbark for pressure treated lumber for bridge and swamp walk construction, mulch hay, 2-cycle oil, posts

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

\$118.04 Reimburse Ms. Merrow for lunch items for the April Stewardship event

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

b. Update on Trails Day

Mr. Smith provided an update on Trails Day. He hosted a hike on Hatch Lot, 7 people joined and walked from the red to the green to the blue and all the way to the vista and back. Considering the state of CT had more trails days activities than any other state in the union, that was a good turnout. All participants enjoyed the hike. The 2nd event scheduled for Harris was cancelled due to the threat of thunderstorms and rescheduled for June 30.

c. Public Comment

No members of the public were in attendance.

7. Next meeting – July 2, in Meeting Room #1, Municipal Office Building.

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Sienna has submitted a letter of resignation as he is moving out of East Haddam. The chair and commission thanked him for his many years of service and hard work.

Mr. Smith received an electronic update from Aidan Behilo on the Davison Property. The funding has been raised, with \$500 raised past the target. The project is 53% complete; he outlined the work that has been done and what remains to be completed.

Mr. Smith reviewed the budget; there is less than a \$1000 left after the Shagbark bill, repaying Ms. Merrow and the map reprinting that remains to be paid. The fiscal year ends June 30, so the CC is on track to spend all its funds.

Mr. Gelston inquired as to the status of the trail counters. Mr. Smith noted the trail counters have not been installed yet.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, June 4, 2019

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- Davison Property Development – Project Update 6/4/19, Aidan Behilo
- Paul Sienna resignation letter