

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

October 1, 2019

Adopted November 7, 2019

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, October 1, 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, Gary Wilson, Marilyn Gleeson, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston, Thom Delventhal, Bernie Gillis.

2. Appointment of Alternates

Mr. Bernie Gillis, alternate, has been appointed as a full voting member at this meeting for Ms. Merrow.

Mr. Gary Wilson, alternate, has been appointed as a full voting member at this meeting for Mr. Zaid.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 9/3/19

2. Added “at this meeting” and “vacancy created by the”

5.b. Changed Chatman and Chapman

Motion by Ms. Gleeson to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved.

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Smith noted the welder will not be starting tomorrow due to the rain, but has been rescheduled for Monday, to address the bridge on Patrell.

Outreach and Promotion: An article was submitted for the Rose Farm bridge for the Events magazine.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted there are 2 applications under consideration requesting minor changes to a structure. Mr. Smith asked if the drainage issues at Lakeside Dan’s have been resolved; Mr. Gelston noted that it has not been resolved.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid is not in attendance so Mr. Smith and Mr. Gillis provided an update. There is discussion on creating a village district starting at Sanibel all the way to Curtin Construction gravel pit. It would expand the commercial district, but the discussion is in its early stages. There will be a public hearing and meeting about the transfer of the East Haddam Free Public Library to the town; the Selectmen’s Office is managing this. The Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen have both approved the transfer.

c. ADA Path and plantings

Mr. Smith noted that, as everyone is aware, there have been a number of delays. He has put together a status of the project to provide the grantor organization with an update on the project. Discussion ensued. Public Works has committed to doing the remaining work within the next 2 weeks. If they are not able to get the work completed, there will need to be a nursery on site to move the plants from Mr. Wilson’s property to Patrell. Mr. Wilson noted there are some plants that may have to be moved as they are in an area that Public Works will be working on.

Mr. Smith noted that there will be some video taken on the Patrell site as part of the East Haddam Land Trust’s grant collaboration with East Haddam Historical Society. (As an aside, the Historical Society and EHLT have received a grant to create a video and paint a mural within the Historical Society showing all the open space and natural features of the town.) Patrell was chosen given the number of organizations that contributed to purchasing the property. (Note: The EHLT provided funding along with a number of other organizations for Patrell. In addition, the EHLT initially was the steward on that property until the East Haddam Conservation Commission took over.) The goal is to show the collaboration and cooperation between all the organizations to protect Patrell which ultimately led to the purchase of all the other parcels making up Chapal Farm and the Goodwin Trail.

d. Update on Eagle Scout project(s)

Mr. Kerr provided an update on his Eagle Scout project, which is focused on installing Adirondack chairs on 8 sites, to be divided up between the EHLT and the CC. (As an aside, EHLT has not chosen its sites yet.) Mr. Smith asked the CC to decide the sites that they would like chairs on. The sites chosen are the old dump site (with a platform), Hatch Lot, Harris, Roaring Brook, and Sabine. The CC provided 5 sites in case the EHLT does not provide 4 sites to him.

Mr. Behilo sent an email to Mr. Smith providing an update on his Eagle Scout project on the Davison property. He (Mr. Behilo) reached out to the gentleman in Lyme regarding the cedar benches; unfortunately that option is not going to work. He will revert back to his plan of purchasing the benches from Home Depot. He met with Mr. Zaid to discuss building the kiosk. The pad has been installed for the picnic table. Mr. Behilo expects to have his project completed by Nov. 1. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony once it is completed.

e. Fall Stewardship Saturday

Last Saturday, there was another productive event for the CC. The town had cleared the landing prior to the event, which helped. There were 7 people who joined from the general public; although there were members of the CC and EHLT there as well. Mr. Gelston provided an update on the event. People joined due to word of mouth and the roadside signs. Quite a bit of work was completed but more needs to be done; it’s a very large property. Mr. Smith noted that Ms. Gleeson GPSed the trail; its 0.8 miles. A parking lot still needs to be

installed; due to the seasonal stream on the south side, the CC must go before the IWWC to get approval for the parking lot. In addition, there is a need for a sign there. At the last meeting, there was discussion related to the name of the property. Mr. Smith did some research and determined that Shugrue must be in the name. There were several proposals made regarding the name. Mr. Wilson suggested “Long Hill at Shugrue Reserve”, to honor the geologic feature. Mr. Gelston also noted that the Ackley Cemetery was originally called Long Hill Cemetery. Everyone liked “Long Hill at Shugrue Reserve” and decided that is the new name of that parcel.

Mr. Gelston noted that for future events, there needs to be more work put into the invitation list to ensure that there are more people from the public, especially younger people. Mr. Gelston suggested getting more closely engaged with the schools.

6. New Business

a. New bills

\$63.98            Shagbark for saw blade packages

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

\$78.63            Ms. Gleeson for Stewardship Saturday event

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

b. Status of Rose Farm Bridge

Mr. Smith noted that it is completed. The bog bridge is 126 feet, the elevated portion is 96 feet. Some sanding remains; there will be a grand opening in November, hopefully after the Events magazine is published with its article.

c. Public Comment

No comment as no public attended this meeting.

7. Next meeting – November 7, at Meeting Room #2, Municipal Office Building.

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Gelston clarified that he will remain on the CC until December.

Mr. Gelston will bring ideas of names for the old dump site to the next meeting, for the CC to consider for property naming.

Regarding the old dump site, Public Works has drilled holes for Mr. Smith to install the gate. Mr. Smith will be installing the gate soon.

Mr. Smith noted that effective 10/1/2019, there are a number of new laws that take effect. One law allows towns to create cultural districts. There is potential for East Haddam’s open space to be part of a cultural district in the future, and increase tourism within the town.

Mr. Smith provided a quick budget review. The balance is around \$5300, with \$17,000 in the capital fund for other projects.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary