

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

November 7, 2019

Adopted December 3, 2019

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Thursday, November 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, Gary Wilson, Joe Zaid, Thom Delventhal, Todd Gelston, Marilyn Gleeson, Bernie Gillis, Sue Mellow via phone

2. Appointment of Alternates

Mr. Thom Delventhal, alternate, has been appointed as a full voting member at this meeting for Ms. Gelston.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 10/1/19

5a. change "Patrell" to "Rose Farm"

5c. changed "has" to "have"

5c. changed "40th anniversary" to "grant collaboration with East Haddam Historical Society"

5e. changed "road side" to "roadside"

Motion by Mr. Delventhal to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved. Mr. Zaid and Ms. Mellow abstained.

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: The welder has completed the welding work on the Patrell bridge. It was \$535 total with additional materials needed (more than what was originally estimated due to a few additional welds needed). The bridge is now permanently attached to the pier.

Mr. Smith noted the permit for a parking lot at Shugrue will be filed with the IWWC as there is an intermittent stream within 15 feet of the proposed parking lot. Mr. Smith has one more gate and is considering installing it on Shugrue.

Outreach and Promotion: When Events magazine is published, the article on the Rose Farm bridge will be included.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to report.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston noted 2 minor things came before IWWC related to improvement of the shoreline and installing a dock. There was nothing of concern.

The status of Lakeside Dan's (removing the fill in the drain, then installing a bigger drainage pipe) is that the project was going to be started but postponed due to rain. It should be done before the next Conservation Commission meeting.

P&Z – Mr. Zaid noted that P&Z approved turning a Tater Hill Road property business to a rental property. There was a revision on Laurel Cove road on a conforming lot. There was a public hearing, at which P&Z approved Staehley's Farm application for their wine tasting and to host 8 yearly events. A Warner Road detached accessory apartment application was also approved.

c. ADA Path and plantings

Mr. Smith noted due to mechanical issues, Public Works was not able to work on the ADA path. Mr. Wilson has moved the plants that were in Public Works' way, so there is no issue with that. The remainder of the plants Mr. Wilson has will be planted in the pollinator garden, and moved in the spring.

The rough surface is installed, once it is set to grade, the surface will be rolled and then trap rock will be put down. After that is installed, the edges will be graded with top soil. There will be a paved parking area installed in the spring. Several potholes will be filled as well. The abutment at the bridge will have a paved apron as well.

d. Update on Eagle Scout project(s)

On the Davison property, Mr. Zaid worked with Mr. Behilo and got the framework for the kiosk installed. The sign board is right next to the sign. Mr. Behilo provided an update via text - all 4 benches are built, a table has been bought and installed and the kiosk framework was installed. Another table will be purchased and installed in the spring. Mr. Gillis suggested that this property receive more promotion now that this project is almost completed. Public Works will be doing additional clean up and also more work on the vista to continue to clear it out. It will be highlighted in the next Events magazine as well as the East Haddam News.

Regarding Mr. Kerr's Eagle Scout project involving installing Adirondack chairs with platforms (on some properties), Mr. Kerr would like a plan for the platform. Ms. Gleeson provided the list of the EHLT - Duncan, Hidden Valley, Sheepskin, Bernstein, and Olde Field - to Mr. Kerr, in addition to the sites provided to him from the EHCC. Mr. Smith will draw up platform plans and provide to him.

While the old dump site is included within Mr. Kerr's project, there may be additional work completed by the CC to add an enclosure. The path would go to the enclosure. Mr. Smith noted that the gate has been installed to protect the property. A load or 2 of gravel will be dumped to reduce the lip out onto the road. It will be mowed much more frequently to keep the locust trees down. Mr. Gelston is still researching potential names.

e. Status of Rose Farm Bridge

Mr. Smith noted that the Rose Farm Bridge is now completed. The trail must be painted blue, and that will be complete as well. Mr. Gelston noted that there is a big pile of asphalt left from the paving completed on Town Street at the Rose Farm parking lot. Mr. Smith is going to address and get that removed.

6. New Business

a. New bills

\$97.26 Gano's, to fix 2 parts that broke on the walk behind mower

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

\$95.00 Olson Sanitation, port-o-let for the fall Stewardship event

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

\$144.79 Shagbark for stewardship work

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

b. 2020 Conservation Commission schedule

Ms. Goyette walked through the 2020 schedule.

Motion by Mr. Zaid to approve 2020 schedule as presented. Second by Mr. Delventhal and unanimously approved.

c. Public Comment

No comment as no public attended this meeting.

7. Next meeting – December 3, at Meeting Room #1, Municipal Office Building.

8. Announcements and other discussion

Ms. Merrow noted she heard that Eversource is planning on building an 80 foot bridge where the high tension lines cross the EightMile River for their trucks to be able to cross the river. Eversource is looking to increase their ability to get to the high tension lines. Mr. Smith will let Pat Young know of these plans.

Ms. Merrow noted that with changes on our commission, CC members should be on alert to look for new CC members in the future.

Mr. Smith reviewed the current CC membership. Ms. Merrow's term expired in June 2019; she would be pleased to stay on the commission. Mr. Delventhal's term expired in June 2019; he would be pleased to stay on the commission. Mr. Wilson's term expired on June 2019; he would be pleased to stay on the commission. Mr. Gelston is resigning effective December 1. There is an opening for an alternate on the Commission.

There are 3 alternates – Mr. Delventhal, Mr. Gillis, Mr. Wilson – and with Mr. Gelston resigning, there is an option to move one of the alternates to become a regular member

Motion by Mr. Gillis to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Mr. Wilson be moved to a regular CC member position. Second by Mr. Gelston and unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith also noted that given his recent election as Selectmen, there will be a need to find a replacement for chairperson.

There are several properties that are good candidates for kestrel boxes – Shugrue, Dean, Rose Farm, etc. It could also be a future article to engage the community in providing habitat for kestrel. One of the full-time police officers in town, Jim Smith, has been installing them all over the area and is quite an expert on their habitat.

Mr. Gelston provided an update on the finances to Mr. Smith. The capital was moved from a lapsing account to a non-lapsing account. \$5200 is available now for upcoming expenditures.

Ms. Gleeson is working on maps for the Roaring Brook and Shugrue properties as well as some EHLT properties.

Mr. Smith noted that the new name for Shugrue is “Shugrue Farm on Long Hill”. The CC will install a small kiosk for the property.

The spring stewardship planning will start after the first of the year.

Mr. Zaid asked about the survey on the Elementary School; Mr. Smith will have the property survey completed during this winter as there was a very wet section that could not be surveyed last year.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary