

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

February 4, 2020
Adopted March 3, 2020

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Office Building. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Gary Wilson, Marilyn Gleeson, Bernie Gillis, Sue Merrow, Susan Pagnano, Thom Delventhal, Charlotte Gelston

Others present: John Olin, Rob Smith – arrived 7:45

2. Appointment of Alternates

No alternates appointed as all members were present.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 1/7/20

5c. added he said it was to clarify the sentence related to the zip code

5a. added solicit to the last sentence

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

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gillis noted that he and Mr. Delventhal got together to pick up all the materials that Mr. Zaid had been storing at his property to move it to another location. They also went to the Lena property to put in a directional sign on Babcock Road toward the parking lot. There was one work party at Shugrue since the last meeting, to set boundaries on the south side to Early Road. Some of the boundary was marked, however, there was a bit of an issue with one of the land owners, who feels that the boundary has been mismarked. Mr. Gillis talked with Mr. Ventres about where the pins were located and looked at the map; the issue has not been resolved so the boundary marking cannot be completed at this point. Mr. Ventres will take ownership of handling the boundary issue.

Mr. Gillis noted the next work party is this Sunday and the goal is to mark more boundaries at Shugrue. Mr. Wilson asked if it's possible to get a work party organized for during the week, as he has time to work during the week. Mr. Delventhal and Ms. Pagnano can both volunteer during the week as well. Notice can be made to the public in the East Haddam News. Conducting work parties during the week could draw new and additional volunteers that do

not join on weekend work parties.

Mr. Gillis also visited Rose Farm and cut up the 7 downed trees with the new 56 volt battery operated chain saw. In addition he walked the red trail at Hatch Lot and addressed the downed trees as well. He also cleaned up the Goodwin Trail with the new chain saw.

Ms. Gleeson would like to have Mr. Gillis note which properties do not have maps and let Ms. Gelston know. Mr. Gillis will also pay attention to which properties still need map holders. Hatch Lot, Rose Farm and Boot Rock and Patrell need to have more maps added to their holders. Any property within the Important Bird Area (IBA) needs to have a 2nd map holder installed to hold the IBA maps and the IBA sign.

Outreach and Promotion: Ms. Merrow noted the next Events magazine will be published soon and have the charcoal mound article. She asked people to be thinking about article topics for the next issue. She noted that the Eagle Scout projects may be a good update.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to note.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Nothing really pertinent to the CC.

P&Z – Nothing really pertinent to the CC.

c. Update on Eagle Scout project(s)

Neither Mr. Smith nor Ms. Gleeson have heard anything from Mr. Behilo about a ribbon cutting for the Davison property.

Ms. Gleeson was approached by another Scout to GPS a new trail at the Middle School, and that has been completed.

d. Budget discussion

Ms. Gleeson asked if there were any questions on the budget discussed at the prior meeting. The next step is to go to the Board of Finance. Mr. Wilson noted that it would be nice to have a line item to plant native plants. It would enable the CC to have that viewed by the public and also enable the CC to have the ability to purchase native plants yearly, to be planted at each property as work is completed. Ms. Gleeson noted that there is not a way to add a line for that given that the budget categories are set, but the CC can use the “Other Supplies” line. Mr. Gillis asked if Mr. Wilson had a figure in mind for spending. Mr. Wilson noted you can get seedlings in bulk for about \$2 per plant. He suggested starting with \$200 as the budget for that, and Ms. Gleeson noted that there is \$2000 in the “Other Supplies” line.

Ms. Gleeson noted that the CC has to work on showing the other sides that the CC supports, while it’s not just trail building, it is also planting native plants.

e. Potential names for “the old dump site”

The names in the running were “Salmon River Overlook” and “Salmon River Vista”. Ms. Gelston also suggested “Salmon River Prospect”, but liked “Salmon River Overlook”.

Motion by Mr. Delventhal to name the old dump site, Salmon River Overlook. Second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

6. New Business

a. New bills

\$ 540 R. Lanouette LLC 6 hours of a truck rental for hauling gravel to Lena

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

\$ 319.04 Ace Hardware for new battery powered chain saw

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

\$902.46 Coit for gravel for Lena

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

\$80.55 Shagbark for trail supplies – nails, paint, chip brush, etc

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

b. Applicant to join CC – John Olin

Ms. Gleeson introduced John Olin, who is interested in joining the CC. He and his wife moved to East Haddam about a year ago from central PA and have been enjoying it. They moved to be closer to family and the side benefit is they get to live in a beautiful part of the country. Over the years, he has been very heavily involved in a number of different organizations that support and sustain the environment and natural resources in PA and is interested in bringing that support to East Haddam.

Motion by Ms. Gelston to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to appoint John Olin as an alternate on the Conservation Commission. Second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved.

c. Plan of Conservation and Development/CC Assignments

Mr. Wilson had noted to Ms. Gleeson that 95% of the CC's work is focused on trails while there is so much more that the CC can be working on. To that end, Ms. Gleeson asked Mr. Wilson to review the Plan of Conservation Commission plan of action for where the CC is noted as being a lead or support commission. Mr. Wilson suggested that it is best to prioritize the actions where the CC is the lead (there are 12). Discussion ensued about the items listing the CC as the lead entity, discussing each item to see which makes the most sense to focus on this year.

Ms. Gleeson would like to focus on education, recreation opportunities and working with the schools on page 89. There was discussion around planning a demonstration garden up at the Harris property. Mr. Smith noted the Agriculture Commission is in charge of the Harris property community garden so the CC would connect with that commission on any activity.

Mr. Wilson will review the list to disseminate it into a more digestible list for discussion at the next meeting.

d. Public Comment

Mr. Smith provided information on what Sustainable CT is and how all-encompassing it is to make communities sustainable for all members.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the Patrell. Public Works focused on removing invasives and clearing out the small trees from the parking area down over the bank to the ADA path. The meadow by the river also has been cleared of the speckled alder that has grown up in the past few years. In addition Baker Lane has been also cleaned up.

As soon as the frost is out of the ground and asphalt screenings can be laid down without clumps, the last piece of the ADA path will be completed at Chapal Farm – Patrell.

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

8. Announcements and other discussion

Ms. Gleeson noted that Mr. Zaid has resigned. The Commission would like to recognize Mr. Zaid for all his support over the years; Ms. Merrow volunteered to write a letter of thanks for Mr. Zaid's many years of service.

Ms. Gleeson reminded people that the CLCC conference is March 21st and if anyone is interested in going, the CC will pay for the conference fee. Ms. Gleeson will send the link to Ms. Goyette who will send it out to the CC. Mr. Olin is interested in attending, Ms. Gleeson is also going to attend, and Mr. Wilson will see if he can attend. Those interested will send Ms. Goyette the list of the sessions they would like to attend.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Action Agenda and Implementation Plan of Conservation and Development