

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

March 3, 2011

Adopted April 5, 2011

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 7:04 PM at the River House. Cynthia Matthew being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Cynthia Matthew, Peggy Carlson, TJ Tarbox, Scot Mackinnon, Nancy Mackinnon, Paul Stuhlman, Sue Merrow, Clair Maeder, Todd Gelston. Others present: Rob Smith

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Mackinnon to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Ms. Maeder and unanimously approved.

Approval of minutes should be 2/10, not 2/1.
Added P&Z follow up to item 5.

3. Approval of Minutes for 02/10/11

Motion by Ms. Merrow to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Mackinnon and unanimously approved.

Change “regulation” to “ordinance” in regards to the IWWC ordinance.

Changed #5 to change April Poisson’s inclusion in the inventory.

Changed Pizinni to Pizzini.

#7 added when to the last sentence of the paragraph.

Changed Mr. Smith to EHLT in #9 second paragraph.

4. Subcommittee workgroups, updates and considerations

The Trail Guide has an excellent first draft and includes all the missing properties as well as 2/3 of maps and photos. Ms. Hawkins has followed up with Mr. Ventres on the verbiage that needs to be included regarding hunting. Sabine will not be included in the guide as there are no trails on it yet. Ms. Maeder provided an update on the printer research that she did. The price is roughly \$700 to do the layout. Ms. Maeder has purchased the software to create the layout saving the \$700. She will reach out to Saybrook Printing to get a quote from them as well. Ms. Matthew noted that she will follow up with Mr. Walter. Once the materials are all pulled together, the sub-committee will start the bid process with Ms. Matthew and the CC. Ms. Merrow asked that the federally designated Wild and Scenic Watershed for the Eightmile River be included in the trail guide. Ms. Merrow will see if she can get logo to be included in the trail guide.

No forestry subcommittee or Bird Inventory updates to be provided.

Fieldwork – Mr. Tarbox noted regarding the easement between the Sabine and Jezek properties that Mr. Ventres has provided the language and if the CC and EHLT approves the easement, then Mr. Ventres will physically walk the easement to the land owner. There are no objections with the

format provided (see attachment); but the CC would like to have the Town attorney review it. Ms. Matthew will communicate on behalf of the CC to Mr. Ventres that this format can be used and put into effect after the Town Attorney reviews. Mr. Tarbox will also follow up with Mr. Ventres to make sure that it is put into effect.

5. IWWC communication follow-up and Planning and Zoning follow-up
Ms. Matthew has clarified what the communication will be. Most of the land use agencies do not communicate via email. Hard copy is distributed to the members, all are sent to members' homes via US Mail. Ms. Matthew will now receive, in the mail, what the IWWC members will receive. The materials will be sent out on the Thursday before the Tuesday meeting. The packet will include agenda, prior minutes and all relevant materials. Ms. Matthew will now receive both the IWWC and the P&Z materials. Ms. Matthew asked for volunteers to handle the P&Z materials and attend meetings as needed if a matter is on the agenda that requires CC input. Ms. Mackinnon has volunteered to be the CC point person to review the P&Z materials.
6. IWWC Applications and IWWC Issues of Interest
There was a public hearing, and it was continued to March 15th. The public hearing is about stream crossings. The IWWC is going to adopt what several other states have adopted. There is a 2 lot subdivision before them. Mr. Gelston will attend and report back to the CC. Ms. Maeder will attend the next meeting along with Mr. Gelston.
Ms. Matthew noted that everyone received emails of the IWWC regulations. Copies can be gotten from the Land Use Office.
7. Logo Ideas
Ms. Matthew asked if anyone had any logo ideas. Ms. Merrow noted that perhaps a good idea would be to ask the high school art students to design a logo. Ms. Maeder noted that there should be guidelines noted for the students. Ms. Matthew asked everyone to come up with at least one idea of what a potential logo could be. The discussion will be continued in April.
8. New Business:
 - a. Public education event - Nancy
Ms. Mackinnon discussed with Mr. Stuhlman the concept of sponsoring events. The first would be a showing of a documentary, "Gaslands," which is about the potential of new natural gas wells to negatively affect water quality. Ms. Merrow suggested that perhaps the Environmental Roundtable and Green Committee could co-sponsor. Mr. Gelston noted that it would be wise that the CC co-sponsor this showing as this issue is not a local problem for East Haddam, but for other states and areas of the country that have this issue.
Ms. Matthew noted that with the trail guide coming out shortly, perhaps there is an opportunity to pull together an event that has to do with open space and the properties East Haddam has. She noted that perhaps the event could be an annual outreach event.
Mr. Stuhlman suggested having as an agenda item a brainstorming session related to public outreach at a future meeting. Mr. Gelston noted that if the newest properties become open space, there are 500 more acres to steward. Creating exciting projects that excites people will bring more interest in stewardship. Ms. Matthew noted that there has been quite a bit of public outreach with Mr. Mackinnon's connection with the Yale School of Forestry and Mr. Stuhlman's connection with Franklin Academy.

Motion by Mr. Mackinnon that the stewardship aspect of the CC mission is paramount to the work of the CC. Second by Mr. Tarbox. Ms. Matthew tabled the motion till next month, seconded by Mr. Mackinnon.

Ms. Matthew asked that the subcommittees touch base to discuss planning before the next meeting to make sure the plans are known for the functions that the CC is already doing. Ms. Merrow noted that each CC member should be doing something in between meetings to make sure that things are happening and work is progressing.

9. Next meeting – Special Meeting, Tuesday, April 5th

10. Other discussion

Mr. Mackinnon attended a workshop with a number of Yale forestry students regarding land preservation issues. As far as how the Yale Forestry School could help the CC, he connected with several of the Yale Forestry faculty; who noted that next year; the CC can present to the students and perhaps catch some student's interests.

Ms. Matthew thanked Ms. Mackinnon for attending the recent Planning and Zoning Plan of Conservation and Development. Economic Development felt the new trail guide would be a great resource to promote the town. There was interesting discussion related to the minor tweaks and changes in the Plan of Conservation and Development. It was an excellent opportunity to learn about what else is planned in town. P&Z is looking at potentially tweaking flag lot treatment and common driveways. The meeting was relatively short in terms of an update. The practice of having an update every year allows for minor tweaks to be made and made public.

Ms. Matthew followed up on the Chapal Farm materials. She met with the Town Historian. All the materials are in the Rathbun Library within the archive room. Mr. Stafko will catalog all the materials. He also provided information that the original Chapal Farm was originally 90 acres, much of which is now Town-owned properties. The entire parcel was purchased by the Pizzini family in 1933, who then proceeded to purchase and sell land here and there over the years. Ms. Hawkins to make copies of the attachment for the CC. Mr. Tarbox discussed the name change with Ms. Bireley of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust and with Mr. Nathan Froehling from the TNC. Ms. Merrow suggested that it would be a good idea to let Ms. Lyons know that the materials she sent are now part of the East Haddam Town archives and part of the Town history. Ms. Matthew will send Ms. Lyons a letter to let her know that the materials are now in the Town archives. Ms. Mackinnon noted that it might be a great idea to include that the materials are part of the archives in the trail guide write-up. There was much discussion around the naming of the 3 properties that make up Chapal Farm. Mr. Tarbox will call the sign vendor and either stop the printing or to have other signs created due to the name change.

Motion by Ms. Mackinnon to rename the current Chapal Farm Preserve to include the names Patrell parcel, Boot Rock parcel and Pizzini parcel to provide identification as sub-headings. Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved.

Mr. Mackinnon suggested that the 2010-2011 goals and objectives be updated to reflect the changes in the goals.

Ms. Matthew asked Ms. Carlson if she would be the Treasurer of the CC given her detailed nature. Ms. Carlson will think about Ms. Matthew's request.

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Ms. Merrow reminded the CC to get out to vote for the Town Referendum on 3/10 for the newest open space parcels.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Maeder to adjourn, second by Mr. Mackinnon , unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Hawkins
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Trail Easement