

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

May 3, 2011

Adopted June 7, 2011

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at 7:15 PM at the River House. The Conservation Commission temporarily elected Mr. Mackinnon to act as Chair for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting until Madam Chairperson could join. Cynthia Matthew joined late and resumed the Chair with the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

TJ Tarbox, Scot Mackinnon, Nancy Mackinnon, Sue Merrow, Clair Maeder, Peggy Carlson, Todd Gelston, Cynthia Matthew – arrived 7:40. Others present: Rob Smith, Dylan Mackinnon

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Gelston asked to add the Forester Invoice to the agenda. Added under 3A.

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

3. Approval of Minutes for 04/05/11

Changed I to is in section 5.

Changed created to creating in section 5.

Added “or that logging will be occurring” in section 4. 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph.

Motion by Ms. Merrow to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Ms. Maeder and unanimously approved. Ms. Carlson abstained.

a. Forester Invoice

Mr. Gelston provided the invoice for payment by the commission.

Motion by Ms. Merrow to pay the invoice as billed. Second by Ms. Maeder and unanimously approved.

4. EHC logo

The CC looked at 10+ logos for the Conservation Commission. After voting, the CC has chosen the heron drawn by Carrie Capizzano. Ms. Goyette will provide Ms. Matthew with Ms. Capizzano's email address to send her a thank you. Ms. Maeder has the copy of the chosen logo and the runner up logo choice. Ms. Maeder will ensure the drawing and lettering works for logos.

5. Trail Day with Pepsico volunteers on May 14<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Tarbox noted that Mr. Smith marked out a trail with yellow markers on the Nichols property to be properly tagged as a trail. Participants will be directed to park along the roadside on the road to the Transfer Station. Mr. Tarbox will post a Pepsico banner announcing the event. Mr. Tarbox noted he will notify the foreman of the Transfer Station so none of the staff is surprised by the event. The event will run from 8:30am - 2:30pm with a lunch being provided. The range of participants is

around 10-14 people from Pepsico. The East Haddam Land Trust will be participating in the event as well. Pepsico will donate a picnic table to be placed at the beginning of the trail. Pepsico has also offered to pay for the sign to mark the trail. Mr. Tarbox discussed with Mr. Ventres about Pepsico's offer to post the sign, and there is no problem with having a sign posted with "courtesy of Pepsico" on it.

Mr. Tarbox will coordinate all volunteers to work; the goal is to complete at least one loop of a trail on the event day. Ms. Matthew noted that it would be a good opportunity to provide the badges that Mr. Stuhlman has.

Mr. Tarbox asked for as many of the CC members to attend as possible. There are possibly 6 people from the CC who can attend the event. Pepsico will also provide beverages and granola bars. Mr. Tarbox will research to see if there can be a port-a-potty provided.

Motion by Mr. Mackinnon for Mr. Tarbox to create the trail head sign which includes a thank you to Pepsico on it. Second by Ms. Merrow and unanimously approved.

6. Follow up and Updates: IWCC, P&Z, workgroups, easement language (Sue Merrow), site walk review (Scott Mackinnon)  
IWCC – Ms. Maeder and Mr. Gelston attended the meeting; there is nothing interesting to note at this time.  
P&Z – the Town approved flag lot changes to the P&Z regulations, by special exception only. CC input is that buffering is an area of concern; such that a proper buffer is included in any exception granted and there is a way to monitor and enforce it. Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> is the next hearing for the flag lot subdivision before P&Z.  
Trail guide – Ms. Maeder has moved forward with the trail guide. Mr. Smith is working with Mr. Ventres on the main center map to include in the guide. Ms. Maeder will ask Ms. Carlson to conduct the final proof. Ms. Matthew noted that the CC will need to borrow money from the special fund and may need to ask for special donation for the hard copy of the guide. Mr. Smith suggested asking the Economic Development Commission or Chamber of Commerce for funds to cover the trail guide printing. Ms. Matthew will reach out to them to check. The total projected cost is around \$2000. The CC commended and thanked Ms. Maeder for her hard work on the guide. Ms. Matthew noted a future agenda item is to discuss distribution.  
Easement language – the Town has a standard easement language that is used for each property acquired. Ms. Matthew asked Mr. Gelston to provide a copy of the Gelston easement used on his property. Mr. Gelston will provide a copy to Ms. Merrow. Ms. Klein, a former CC member, had conducted research on construction easement. Mr. Gelston suggested the CC write an article regarding what a conservation easement is to educate Town residents on what it is and where to find it. Ms. Matthew suggested that for the 2011-2012 year, an easement education, language and strategizing (i.e., how to influence "paper to practice" easements) subcommittee would be a great addition and goal for the next fiscal year.  
Site walk review – during site walks, there is not to be any discussion. A sheet of paper would be a great thing to use to take note on and use during the public hearing. Ms. Matthew asked that at a future meeting, the CC review the checklist. Mr. Mackinnon will provide an electronic copy to the Recording Secretary who will make copies for review/discussion at the next meeting.

7. Next meeting – Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 in the River House

8. Other discussion

Ms. Matthew discussed CC attendance with Mr. Stuhlman, who has decided to withdraw his seat from the CC due to other commitments. There is now an open seat, however Mr. Stuhlman is hoping to stay engaged in the CC.

Ms. Matthew provided information that the EightMile River folk are interested in hosting an EightMile River-themed walk in October. The EHLT will be hosting a walk on October 22. Ms. Matthew asked if the EHLT would like to have the CC connected to it and Ms. Goyette (President of EHLT) noted that that would be welcome.

Mr. Mackinnon noted that to ask for Public Works' support, Ms. Matthew can send an email to Mr. Walter to request what the CC needs. For the next meeting, Ms. Matthew asked the CC members to think about what the CC needs Public Works on. Mr. Mackinnon also noted that he would like to see the CC put together an education program, signage, pamphlets, etc. to ensure the town's people are clear what responsible stewardship is, which could include brush-hogging, sickle bar mowing, sustainable logging, etc. Ms. Matthew noted that this falls squarely in the purview of the CC to educate the public on what stewardship could look like.

Ms. Mackinnon noted that at the newly informed Agriculture Commission who will offer help to the CC to monitor the currently and future farmed properties. They could act as a liaison in case the CC needed to find someone else to lease the properties. The Agriculture Commission can provide guidance on how to maintain the space. If property was purchased using State funds, there must be research conducted before any type of agriculture can be done on an open space parcel.

Point of information - Mr. Smith noted that by IRS regulations, the EHLT has to monitor and compliance of easements to keep its non-profit status. It's important to note that property owners who have easements have a substantial tax advantage.

Point of information – Mr. Smith noted that due to judicial regulations, there is now legal need to post whether or not all trails are handicapped-accessible.

Mr. Tarbox noted that 7 loads of trash were removed from Boot Rock during Town-wide Clean Up Day. The property looks great, and all the trash has been removed.

Mr. Tarbox met with the Future Farmers of America mentors who will be actively working the trails on the Nichols property and noted they were interrupted by the snow.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Mackinnon to adjourn, second by Mr. Mackinnon, unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Instructions for Marking Preserve Boundary Lines