

**East Haddam Open Space Committee**  
MINUTES : April 23, 2012

**DRAFT**

**Attendance:** Mary Augustiny (IWWC), Will Brady (HDC), Rob Smith (EHLT), Emmett Lyman (BOS), Brad Parker (Parks & Rec), Todd Gelston (Conservation), Ed Gubbins (P&Z)  
Guests: Amy Patterson (Connecticut Land Conservation Council), Raul DeBriegard, Stanford Brainerd, Jim McHutchison (Connecticut Yankee Conservation Project, CYCP), and James Ventres, Land Use Administrator

The meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

**Informational meeting.** Guests from the Connecticut Yankee Conservation Project (CYCP) spoke with members of the Open Space Committee about the history of Connecticut Yankee properties and land use.

CYCP came into being after representatives of Connecticut Yankee asked for proposals on an “expression of interest” regarding putting the CY land (528 acres) out on the open market. They reported that CY had a complete Yellow Book appraisal of the remaining 528 acres of land in the event it was needed. It was noted at the meeting that some CY and NU executives seemed “less interested” in conservation than in a profitable return.

CYCP members discussed efforts by themselves, Haddam Neck Spirit and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (and others) for the potential acquisition of nearly 50 acres in Haddam Neck and close to the CY parcels. Assuming approval, the land would become part of the Salmon River Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge.

It was noted that recent news events reported that Northeast Utilities was recently sold to a Boston energy consortium, and a question was raised as to who, exactly, has authority to go forward with any plans for CY land.

Mr. McHutchison talked about the group Haddam Neck Spirit. The group raises money to help purchase open space, it watches over and cleans up open space parcels, and it works with groups such as The Nature Conservancy, the Haddam Land Trust, the Middlesex Land Trust and the State Department of Environmental Protection to preserve as much land as possible. Members often attend inland wetland commission and planning and zoning commission meetings to make sure potential developments fall within the town's regulations.

Members of the CYCP provided a copy of the Salmon River Cove Archeological District Survey, Haddam, CT for our records.

**Executive Session:** After the conclusion of this discussion a motion was made by Rob Smith, seconded by Brad Parker, to enter into executive session, with Town of East Haddam

Land Use Administrator, James Ventres invited to attend, to discuss potential open space property acquisitions and an upcoming DEEP grant application deadline.

Motion was made by Todd Gelston, seconded by Mary Augustiny, to come out of Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. No votes made, no decisions rendered. Passed unanimously.

**Motion to support efforts of CYCP:** A Motion was made by Mr. Gelston, seconded by Mr. Smith, to draft a letter of support for CYCP's efforts at Connecticut Yankee preservation advocacy. The recommendation was also made that the Board of Selectmen write letter of support for those same efforts preservation of open space benefit of contiguous land preservation endeavors shared between East Haddam and the Haddam Neck section of Haddam. Mr. Gelston agreed to come up with draft language for review by the Selectmen. Chairman Brady provided Mr. Gelston the copy of the Salmon River Cove Archeological District Survey, for review.

**Scheduling special meeting:** It was agreed that a special meeting would be necessary to discuss two prospective properties that will be presented to both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for presentation in the next DEEP Open Space grant round. The members agreed to meet on this on May 3, 2012.

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Gelston, for the meeting to be adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Passed unanimously.

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Minutes transcribed by Will Brady

