

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

May 1, 2012

Adopted June 5, 2012

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at 7:21 PM at the River House. Cynthia Matthew being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Cynthia Matthew, TJ Tarbox, Peggy Carlson, Claire Maeder, Todd Gelston. Others present: Charlotte Gelston.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Carlson to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Ms. Maeder and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes for 4/3/12

Section 8: Changed “There are reasons why the CC would want to become more involved and mechanisms to accept, take on and add responsibility to the list of the CC’s responsibility.” To “Easement acceptance and management is important for the CC to consider, and the CC may want to become involved in the mechanisms to accept and review easements. Easements become the responsibility for the CC.”

Motion by Ms. Maeder to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Gelston and unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry Subcommittee: Ms. Matthew noted that she was very pleased with the event with the FFA. She commended the Forestry subcommittee. She feels that the CC has made an important step to coordinate with the students much more smoothly. Mr. Gelston noted that the students had already cleared the Blue trail, and they did an excellent job. The students are interested in helping with the Red trail, which has not been marked yet. The big focus was to stabilize the skidder trails – they put in water breaks and the forester helped to make sure they were engineered correctly. Seeding was done. Special thanks to Mr. Tarbox for bringing his spreader. Ms. Maeder will work with Mr. Smith and Ms. Pease to get information for the trail map/signage. Ms. Matthew will ask Ms. Pease to provide the information on what information should be on the signage. Ms. Pease invited the CC to attend their banquet on May 10 at 6pm, at the American Legion. Ms. Matthew let the CC know so others can attend. Ms. Matthew noted that Ms. Pease asked her to speak a few words at their banquet. The CC provided several comments. Mr. Gelston noted that both foresters attended and got t-shirts. Ms. Goyette also was provided one and she thanks the students and Ms. Pease for including her as well. For the 2012-2013 school year, Ms. Pease and the students would like to continue to work on Nichols. The CC talked about the importance of continuing the relationship with the students and the school and requested Ms. Matthew ask Ms. Pease to work with the students to create a

plan and present it to the CC. Mr. Smith provided comments to Ms. Matthew as he was not able to attend - it may be better to mark fewer trees, so further discussion is needed around tree marking.

Trail guide – There is a new location to distribute guides, Susan's Salon, to which Mr. Tarbox has provided a donation box. Mr. Tarbox also made another box for Staehly's Farm. Ms. Matthew suggested that it may be a good idea to have a running announcement in the Event magazine noting the availability of the trail guide as well as the \$2 donation. Ms. Maeder and Ms. Matthew will work on creating the verbiage for use. Ms. Matthew will also write up an article on the FFA event for publication in the Events magazine and the Principle's newsletter or Board of Education newsletter as well.

b. Signage

Ms. Maeder noted she needs to hold a subcommittee to discuss further. She also must meet with Mr. Ventres to discuss further. Ms. Maeder asked for support to ensure the Nichols entrance property sign is correct. Ms. Matthew suggested working with Ms. Pease to see if the students would be interested in creating the Nichols property internal sign.

c. IWWC

Mr. Gelston noted that the Banner Realty Development is looking to add 247 units and is projecting to use 100,000 of water a day. Mr. Gelston had questions but they need to be asked during a Public Hearing. There will be a Public Hearing soon on this, and Mr. Gelston will provide the CC with information on when it will be held. Ms. Matthew suggested looking at some of the past newsletters which provide various comments on how to think through what to look for related to water issues. Ms. Matthew suggested that during the year-end review, the CC talk about the most effective way to stay in connection with the other boards and commissions.

d. P&Z updates

Ms. Matthew noted P&Z is reviewing the Creek Row property that has requested the building height variance. Mr. Gelston noted that the town has provided the Creek Row property owner and architects with several recommendations to ensure the storm water drainage restriction is met. Mr. Gelston also noted to the application and architects information about keeping the trees alive. Regarding the easement discussion mentioned at the last meeting, Mr. Gelston noted that they are greatly abused and most property owners have no idea of easements on their property. Ms. Matthew noted easements are an issue that the CC needs to think about and approach intelligently to determine how to be effective.

5. New Business

a. Bridge across the 8Mile connecting Boot Rock and Patrell

Mr. Smith suggested the CC think about building a bridge to connect Boot Rock and Patrell. There are existing pilings that could be used. No one saw a reason not to build a bridge, but the CC decided to table the discussion until the next meeting when Rob can attend.

b. Gateway Commission building height variance for Creek Row property

Mr. Gelston reported that the Gateway Commission voted to take action to against the approved variance but since 15 days has passed since the Public Notice, there is nothing they can do to oppose the approval.

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6. Financial report
The topic will be tabled until Ms. Matthew can further understand it. The CC decided that for any bill approved for payment or for any deposit made, a copy will be provided to Ms. Gelston, Treasurer. 2012-2013 plan budget will be discussed next month. Ms. Matthew proposed what was used last year as a base, but further discussion is needed.
7. Year-end subcommittee wrap-up
This topic will be discussed at the next meeting as it is the end of the fiscal year.
8. Next meeting – June 5, the River House
9. Announcements and other discussion
Ms. Matthew suggested the CC may want to consider creating shirts and hats that have the CC logo.
10. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Tarbox to adjourn at 8:51 pm, second by Mr. Gelston, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary