

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

June 5, 2012

Adopted July 10, 2012

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at 7:18 PM at the River House. Rob Smith, acting as Chair, being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, TJ Tarbox, Todd Gelston, Clare Maeder. Others present: John Goyette, Jim Ventres, Emmett Lyman, Peter Simmons, Charlotte Gelston.

2. Approval of Agenda

Add items to agenda – Report from Financial Secretary and Open Space Acquisition.

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

3. Approval of Minutes for 5/1/12

Motion by Ms. Maeder to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Tarbox and unanimously approved. Mr. Smith abstained.

4. Introduction to Economic Development Coordinator, Peter Simmons

Mr. Simmons introduced himself, he is coordinating all the Economic Development in East Haddam from working with the DEP to helping with the agricultural development underway on the Harris property. Mr. Tarbox asked about the brewery on Creamery Road, the funding has not been established yet. The owner has already received the permit to drill a well, but his funding has not been finalized yet. Mr. Tarbox asked for an update on the Harris property – the Agriculture commission submitted a proposal to the State on receiving funding to clear the 12 acres. The State's response has not been provided yet. The CC asked Mr. Simmons if the CC can be of any assistance. Right now, Mr. Simmons note not, but given the very neat things that can be done to utilize the open space to attract visitors to the town, it is always helpful to establish relationships within and between the commissions. Mr. Gelston asked if Mr. Simmons has seen the trail guide and would like to meet with Mr. Simmons to discuss some ideas he has to bring more people into the town to enjoy open space.

5. Old Business

a. Signage

Mr. Ventres attended to provide some information on signage. He provided some sample ideas to the CC for consideration. Regarding the two types of signage that the CC has discussed previously (interior and exterior), Mr. Ventres provided input on DEEP info that must be included on the signs. Mr. Ventres provided a sample of what needs to be included. 24X24 sign is the size recommended for the exterior sign. Mr. Ventres noted that the use of the signage should be taken on a case by case basis to determine what should be on which signs for which properties. For example, on Rt. 82 and 149, the signage can be different on

the road versus what is on the trail head sign. The CC noted that the Town of East Haddam logo should be on the signage as well. Each sign could have different partners and thus different logos. For the Nichols signage provided by the FFA, it will be noted as “Nichols’ Trials” instead of “Nichol’s Trail”.

b. Bridge work

Mr. Ventres took Roger Nemergut out to Three Bridges Road and Patrell property to get a preliminary estimate on foot bridges. He (Mr. Nemergut) suggested using already constructed metal bridges and just drop them into place, as they are just for foot traffic. On Patrell, he liked the trails and suggested building a bridge in place there, rather than dropping one in place. More information will be provided at future meetings.

c. Subcommittee updates and goals for the summer

Forestry Committee – Mr. Gelston noted the work completed on Nichols on April 22, is working well. Grass is growing, and the site is secure environmentally. He did not have a chance to report on it at the last IWWC given the public hearing in place. The cut branches and timber will be left in place. Branch piles will remain as they protect oak saplings. Mr. Gelston noted that the FFA students did an excellent job with their work. Mr. Smith will remark the red trail section, flagging it for future marking. Mr. Tarbox noted the skidder trail that goes from the landing area south has water breaks that are getting washed out and must be attended to. Mr. Gelston will look at the area to see how it can be addressed. Mr. Gelston noted that the next property to be logged is under discussion with next steps being the forester review and recommendation.

Trail Guide and Signage – No update on the Trail Guides as Ms. Maeder is currently working on the signage pieces.

Goals tabled to the next meeting given time.

d. IWWC and P&Z updates

Mr. Gelston attended the Banner Lodge IWWC public hearing and the second hearing will be held June 28. There are serious concerns about water supply, pollution control, etc. There are 247 additional living units, more roads and additional work on the golf course in the proposal. No update on P&Z.

6. New Business

a. Open Space

Mr. Ventres provided information on the open space information. There are 2 potential parcels – Zeiller for 98 acres and Pages for 238 acres. Mr. Ventres provided information and visuals to show the properties, how they connect or potentially connect with other open space and Land Trust properties.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to direct the Chairperson of the CC to write a letter of support for the 2 properties Mr. Ventres outlined above indicating the CC’s wholehearted support for purchasing these properties. Second by Ms. Maeder. Passed 3-1.

b. Report from Financial Secretary

Ms. Gelston provided the report. The CC available budget is \$1739.43, and the forestry available budget is \$2675.15. There is an additional \$29 to be deposited from the Trail Guides

with YTD funds being \$432. There are still outstanding questions as to the amount of money in the forestry budget. Mr. Gelston noted that the balance should be a little over \$4000. Mr. Gelston asked Ms. Gelston to request from the Finance Director a full accounting for the last 18 months, by individual transactions. Mr. Smith suggested that Ms. Matthew should go with Ms. Gelston to talk with the Finance Director.

c. Reappointments

Ms. Gelston asked Mr. Lyman if she can resubmit an application, referencing that the last time she submitted an application, the Mackinnons were also on the CC and the Selectmen had a concern about having 4 members from one family as members. As the Mackinnons have left, that is no longer an issue. Mr. Lyman noted that Ms. Gelston is free to provide a new application for consideration. Mr. Gelston and Ms. Maeder will see if they can find other interested potential members. Ms. Goyette will follow up with Ms. Matthew regarding the two previous applications provided in recent months.

Mr. Tarbox and Ms. Matthew are both up for reappointment.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to recommend to the Selectmen to reappoint Mr. Tarbox and Ms. Matthew to continue their contributions on the CC. Second by Ms. Maeder, unanimously passed. Mr. Tarbox abstained.

7. Next meeting – July 10, the Recording Secretary will verify that the River House is available.
8. Announcements and other discussion
Mr. Smith provided information on the Asian longhorned beetle and the emerald ash beetle as a point of information.
9. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Gelston to adjourn at 8:58 pm, second by Ms. Maeder, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Nichols Trail suggested signage
- Town of East Haddam Open Space – example signage (2 sided)
- East Haddam Open Space Commission Land Use Office
- Beetle Detectives hand-out