

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

July 10, 2012

Adopted August 7, 2012

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 7:26 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, TJ Tarbox, Clare Maeder, Peggy Carlson, Cynthia Matthew, Sue Merrow, Todd Gelston – arrived 7:33. Others present: John Goyette, Charlotte Gelston – arrived 7:33.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Smith to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Ms. Merrow and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes for 6/5/12

Motion by Mr. Smith to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Maeder and unanimously approved. Ms. Merrow, Ms. Carlson and Ms. Matthew abstained.

4. Old Business

a. Signage

Ms. Maeder discussed signage with Mr. Ventres who wants to have the interior information signs posted prior to applying for the current open space application. There are certain pieces of information that must be on the signs per the DEEP regulations. For the street signs perpendicular to the road, Ms. Maeder suggests having a colored background – we could use a green or bright blue background. Bright blue is consistent with non-regulation things like campgrounds and scenic roads. Arrows are not needed. The lettering would be white. The EH CC logo can be added as well, as a block. Signs will be metal and will be on both sides. Ms. Maeder will add a note about “East Haddam Open Space” somewhere on the sign as well. Mr. Ventres noted that he has gotten other interior signs that are close to the ones that the CC has already created, and he is covering the costs as well (the CC does not need to fund those). Exterior signs on the roads do not have to have the DEEP logo.

Motion by Mr. Smith to create as many signs as necessary using blue background coloring and white lettering and other necessary verbiage in order to properly identify open space preserves from highways and by-ways. Second by Ms. Merrow and unanimously approved.

b. Bridge work

Mr. Smith has not heard any further on the Patrell bridge. Mr. Tarbox has worked with his volunteers, and he has the stringers down on the old abutments from the land to the first bridge abutment. They have hauled 2 logs down and are going to place them on the 2<sup>nd</sup> abutment. The span is 29 feet so Mr. Tarbox noted that he must work on figuring out how to get them into place. Mr. Smith noted that it is wise to have someone review and sign off on

the bridge regarding its safety. Mr. Gelston suggested that the CC connect with the CT Forest and Park Association who are very adept in building bridges and who can provide support on this. Ms. Matthew commended Mr. Tarbox for his work and effort on this. This is also a good Events Magazine article idea.

c. Subcommittee updates

Forestry Management – The grass seeded by the students is growing quite nicely on the Nichols property. The water breaks are doing quite well. Mr. Gelston has to still let the IWWC know that the downed wood will remain there. No further work has been done due to other commitments. The next property the subcommittee is looking at is the Shugrue property. Ms. Matthew noted that at the FFA banquet, the FFA presented the CC with a beautiful plaque thanking the CC for our support. Ms. Matthew has had conversations with the Vo-Ag department, and she feels that the relationship has definitely solidified. They are looking forward to working more with the CC in the fall.

d. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC updates – Mr. Gelston noted there is an ongoing hearing regarding the application for the Banner Estates expansion of 245+ units, consuming 80,000 gallons of water a day out of 7 wells. They plan on installing and using a high technology system to process their own waste water, with a network of pipes and a drip system dispersing it. Mr. Gelston asked them to apply for a diversion permit, and IWWC agreed with Mr. Gelston. There is a public hearing for the diversion permit, and it is important that the CC attend the public hearing. The application cannot go forward without the diversion permit, per the IWWC chairperson's comment. This application is the type that the CC should comment upon.

P&Z updates – no updates at this time.

5. New Business

a. Interim Chair

Ms. Matthew thanked Mr. Smith for acting as Chair last month. Ms. Matthew noted she has some health issues with a slow recovery process. As such, she asked the CC to consider providing interim Chairperson support. Mr. Smith offered to provide that support. The rest of the CC thought Mr. Smith providing that support was a good approach and noted they will provide support to him as needed.

b. Application for open seat: Charlotte Gelston

Mr. Tarbox and Ms. Matthew have been reappointed. Ms. Gelston has provided her application for the open alternate position. Ms. Matthew noted it would be very helpful to have Ms. Gelston's keen eye for detail, not just for the budget, but for the other topics that the CC covers. The alternate position is for 2 years.

Motion by Mr. Smith to nominate Ms. Gelston for the open alternate position. Second by Ms. Maeder and unanimously approved. Mr. Gelston abstained.

Ms. Matthew will provide a nomination letter to the Selectmen for consideration.

c. Budget review

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, July 10, 2012

Ms. Matthew reviewed the budget information provided by Ms. Gelston. Monies (\$1356) used to publish the trail guide and were taken out of the Forestry Management will be returned, which will come out of the existing operating budget. Any other monies in the existing budget that falls under public relations, contracted services, office supplies and other supplies will be used to restore the Forestry Management account. The Finance Director will restore as much of the \$1356 that was used to cover the trail guide publication, by the end of this month. Ms. Gelston noted that with the \$1356 reimbursement, the available budget is \$4031.15. Ms. Matthew noted that the CC will get an up to date final accounting soon.

6. Next meeting – August 7, 2012

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith suggested it would be really good to have the sign company produce small mockups so the CC can see the actual signs. Ms. Merrow suggested investigating the state prison system signage company to produce the signs.

Ms. Matthew suggested that for the next meeting that the Promotion sub-committee think about hosting some type of celebration.

October 13 is this year's 8Mile River Fest and will be in Devil's Hopyard.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Maeder to adjourn at 8:57 pm, second by Mr. Gelston, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary