

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

August 7, 2012

Adopted September 11, 2012

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at 7:22 PM at the River House. The Interim Chairperson (Rob Smith) being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, TJ Tarbox, Clare Maeder, Peggy Carlson, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes for 7/10/12

4.a. Add in "interior information" to the first paragraph.

7. Added in "8 Mile" before Riverfest.

5. c. Changed "was" to "and were" to clarify the monies taken out of the Forestry fund.

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

4. Old Business

a. Signage

Ms. Maeder provided mock-ups of the signs for the properties. The hiker symbol (and other symbols) will be added to the Rose Farm Homestead sign when trails are added. They are able to be added after the sign is posted.

Ms. Maeder has contacted a number of sign makers. There are two different types of signs – metal and fiberglass. The fiberglass cost around \$400, does not fade and is another option for the CC to consider. The metal signs' cost has not been determined yet. The State Penitentiary system only provides signs in metal. Metal signs require 2 signs be made while the fiberglass signs can be printed 2-sided.

Mr. Smith suggested and the CC all agreed that if the layout and design is liked by the CC, then Ms. Maeder and Mr. Smith will finalize by determining the vendor, the material and getting the signs ordered.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to authorize Mr. Smith and Ms. Maeder to secure the signs in the material they determine and order them so they can be posted. Second by Mr. Tarbox and unanimously approved.

b. Bridge work

Mr. Tarbox brought in an example of his railing support system. Mr. Smith noted that the Town engineer looked at the Chapel Farm bridge and is actually already working on a design.

The CC needs an IWCC permit as the bridge is next to wetlands. The permit cannot be received until the engineer provides plans. Getting the permit should not be difficult given that there is no work to be done within the watershed.

Mr. Tarbox noted that there are 4 stringers already in place, but the stringer from the other side is not installed yet. He has been in contact with the CT Forest and Park Association, who provided specs. Mr. Tarbox noted the specs were incomplete and is getting further information. Mr. Tarbox showed an example of the railing and support system. There is no toe rail, but Mr. Tarbox will use black netting to block children from falling out. The span is 4 feet to the outside of the log and uses a 9 inch diameter log for the 15 foot span. He must determine if that type of log can be used for the 29 foot span. The engineer's plans must be reviewed once available to ensure the work already completed conforms to the plans and to also determine what else must be done to meet the plans' specifications. Mr. Smith noted that there will be some expense involved. Mr. Smith is suggesting the bridge be able to hold 2400 lbs (2 horses) but the engineer's plan will outline the exact weight it must hold.

c. Subcommittee updates

Signs – already discussed.

Stewardship and Forestry – Mr. Tarbox provided several pictures showing the growth of the grass on the Nichols property. Mr. Gelston has not been able to attend the IWWC meeting to report on the grass growth. Mr. Tarbox noted that Mr. Sienna and his son have been wonderful volunteers.

d. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC updates – IWWC is meeting next week to decide on what to do on the Banner Estate application.

P&Z updates – No update this month.

e. Application for Open Seat: Charlotte Gelston

Ms. Gelston is now an alternate member of the CC.

Motion by Mr. Tarbox to nominate Ms. Gelston for the position of Treasurer for the CC.
Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved. Mr. Gelston abstained.

5. New Business

a. Promotion subcommittee Celebration Event

Tabled to next meeting.

b. Patrell preserve trimming/mowing

Linda Bireley from Lyme sent an email noting the need to trim the Patrell parcel. Mr. Tarbox will address that. Mr. Tarbox asked Rich Shea mow the big meadow and did a great job; he (Mr. Shea) was paid accordingly. There is a lower meadow that must be mowed as well in the fall at the latest. Mr. Tarbox will check again with Mr. Ventres to see if the town can mow it. He will also talk with Mr. Shea to get a price regarding getting the grass mowed by him as well. Mr. Tarbox will provide the information he receives to the CC prior to next month's meeting as he will not be in attendance next month.

c. Discussion of linear trail from East Haddam to East Lyme

Mr. Smith brought forth a proposal of a linear trail through Boot Rock, Patrell, Pizzini, 8 Mile Wildlife management preserve, Darling Road preserve in Salem, TNC easement on a Bingham property, Hartman Park, Nehanic State Forest north and south block, Yale School of Engineering (near Powers Lake) and ending on a new piece of open space in East Lyme. The trail is about 9 miles long, and people are already looking at a connection to make it a 30-mile loop. Exact distances to be provided. Sections are already done but more must be completed to get the trail fully functional. Trail name has not been named yet, but will have its own designation long-term. East Lyme is looking to connect into Rocky Neck or Oswhoagotche Hills.

d. Property names – preserve, parcel or property?

Some of the deeds may have restrictions on them that limit what can be done within them. The question is what they are called. Patrell and Boot Rock should be preserves given that logging Patrell would damage the ecological features and Boot Rock is a bit small to log. Preserves denote no logging. Historically Mr. Ventres has made decisions regarding open space and what things can be done on them (e.g., logging, hunting, etc.). For example, Nichols has always been used for municipal use so there are a host of things that can be done (i.e., logging, hunting, etc). The whole issue is that people have different expectations around open space and what can be done/cannot be done on them. The CC needs to have the deeds of the fee-simple property within its files. Ms. Goyette checked the files and noted the deeds are there. At present, the properties that must be researched to see if they are preserves or not are Urbanik, Boot Rock and Patrell.

6. Next meeting – September 4, 2012 at The River House
Ms. Maeder and Mr. Tarbox will not be in attendance.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Ms. Gelston noted (with glee) that we have received \$500 in donations for the Trail Guide. CT Land Conservation Council has organizational memberships which the CC may want to consider. Cost is between \$100 - \$2000. Becoming members ensures the CC is aware of what is going on in the state related to conservation. It provides a method to stay in connection with what other conservation organizations are doing and ensures communication with the other organizations.

Motion by Ms. Carlson to become a member of the CT Land Conservation Council for \$100.
Second by Ms. Maeder and unanimously approved. Mr. Smith will discuss how to get the money to the CLCC with Ms. Matthew.

Ms. Matthew asked Mr. Smith to ask the CC to provide information to her regarding easements as she would like to write something for the Events magazine.

The plaque from the FFA needs to be hung and Mr. Gelston suggested perhaps it be hung in a very public place so that many people can see it. It will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Maeder to adjourn at 8:47 pm, second by Mr. Gelston, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, August 7, 2012

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- The Habitat, Summer 2012
- Examples of the signs