

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

October 2, 2012

Adopted November 13, 2012

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at 7:16 PM at the River House. The Interim Chairperson (Rob Smith) being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Charlotte Gelston, Sue Merrow, TJ Tarbox, Todd Gelston, Peggy Carlson, Sue Merrow.
Others present: John Goyette

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes for 9/11/12

Motion by Ms. Maeder to approve the minutes. Second by Ms. Carlson and unanimously approved. Mr. Gelston and Mr. Tarbox abstained.

4. Old Business

a. Signage

Mr. Smith showed the signs. They look great and are ready for posting. Some do not have the trail hiker decal. Ms. Maeder noted that the sign company provided larger East Haddam Conservation Commission logo stickers. The larger logos will be used instead of the smaller ones. Mr. Smith will back the signs with plywood and use tamper-proof screws. Material must be ordered by the Public Works or Mr. Ventres. Once ordered and received, then the signs will be posted. Interior signs are also complete. FFA signs are also done, and Mr. Smith will see if he can provide samples of those signs as well.

b. Bridge work

No update on the bridge to connect Patrell and Boot Rock parcels.

c. Subcommittee updates

Forestry – nothing to report at this time.

Stewardship - Mr. Smith noted that there is some additional boundary work on Dean and Shugrue properties to be done. Boundaries must be reconfirmed. There are plenty of tags to use for this work. Mr. Tarbox reported on the Harris property, which is a combined venture with the Agriculture Commission. 18 acres has been scraped up to remove the invasives, and the pile still stands. The dilapidated barn has not been removed. The Agriculture Commission has taken responsibility for the barn and those 18 acres. The barn must be addressed as access has been improved. Ms. Carlson noted that Scot Mackinnon and Jess Stone are in charge of this particular work. Mr. Smith asked Ms. Carlson to invite both of them to attend the next CC

meeting so that an update can be provided. Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Sprecher has agreed to donate a piece of land connecting Harris and Dean in exchange for access through Harris to a piece of his property. In addition, he has donated 25 acres on the backside of Dean which connects to EHLT Olde Field preserve. Mr. Tarbox has provided an update that the DEEP has not provided any information related to Pages and Zieller open space proposals.

Trail guide – Ms. Carlson provided an additional \$50 deposit to Ms. Gelston for trail guides. Next deposit will be \$82, which brings the total trail guide funds to \$646 total. Ms. Maeder followed up with Mr. Smith regarding releasing information to the paper. Mr. Tarbox will provide the reporter's contact information.

d. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Banner proposal has not applied for a diversion permit, so that has not made any additional progress. CAIWC invitation has been provided to the CC as well as the IWWC. P&Z – There is a draft anti-blight proposal before P&Z. The current anti-blight policy is relatively new. The revision is to provide information regarding buildings.

e. Property names – preserves, parcel or property?

Mr. Tarbox asked what the definition of a preserve is. Mr. Smith noted for preserves, no logging is allowed.

f. Patrell preserve trimming/mowing

Mr. Tarbox checked with Mr. Shea who noted he wants to wait to mow until the vegetation has died down. Mr. Tarbox showed Mr. Shea the lower meadow. Mr. Shea will cut as much in the lower meadow as he can, given his equipment. Mr. Smith also talked with Mr. Ventres about the need to cut the burning bush around the paved path as it is growing over the path.

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

Mr. Smith noted that there is nothing new to report on the new trail. Mr. Bingham is a bit concerned regarding one section that is rocky for a horse to pass through, but that remains to be seen if it will need to be rerouted. The intention is to make the trail a multi-use trail for mountain bikes, horses and hiking.

5. New Business

a. 8Mile RiverFest Oct 13, 2-5pm

Mr. Smith noted there will be a joint table with the CC and the EHLT, and the trail guide will be there for the general public to receive for donation. A larger format open space map will be provided. Mr. Gelston suggested showing one of the new signs, and Mr. Tarbox will provide one of his donation boxes as well. Mr. Ventres will not be cooking but has lined up help for the cooking. Mr. Smith asked for CC members to volunteer to spend time at the table. Ms. Gelston volunteered to attend and provide support. Ms. Maeder and Mr. Tarbox may be able to attend. Ms. Carlson also volunteered to help out. Mr. Smith will also reach out to the FFA to see if they would like to help out. Location is at the pavilion in Devil's Hopyard. There are a number of activities that will be happening with quite a bit of information around nature, wildlife and invasive species. Mr. Smith will work with Mr. Ventres to create a map highlighting the town-owned space in one color and the EHLT open space in another color. Ms. Goyette will create a list of the open space parcels with acreage, location and name.

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6. Next meeting – November 13, 2012 at The River House

7. Announcements and other discussion

Ms. Goyette provided the listing of the meeting dates/times to the FFA.

Ms. Goyette will also provide the listing of next year's meeting dates.

There is one open space within the CC, so anyone knows of any interested parties, please let Mr. Smith know.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Tarbox to adjourn at 8:11 pm, second by Ms. Maeder, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc., Sept. 27, 2012 invitation and bylaws information