

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

December 4, 2012

Adopted January 8, 2013

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at 7:20 PM at the River House. The Interim Chairperson (Rob Smith) being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Sue Merrow, Claire Maeder, TJ Tarbox, Peggy Carlson, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston.  
Others present: Emmett Lyman, Paul Sienna

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes for 11/13/12

2. Approval of Agenda – changed amended to presented.

5.a. Added “and Ms. Carlson” to the first sentence and changed “but” to “which”. Added another sentence: “During the discussion, Ms. Carlson noted the total grant was \$20,000, consisting of two parts.”

5.d. Changed 8Mile to EightMile. Changed Mr. to Congressman. Also changed the band from 8Mile to EightMile. Changed 4<sup>th</sup> year to 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive biannual celebration.

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

4. Old Business

a. Signage

Mr. Smith has not had any chance to do any work on the signage. It is on his agenda to be completed before the ground freezes. Mr. Ventres has not posted the signage on Dean as the boundaries are not fully marked. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Ventres to contact him as Mr. Smith and Mr. Tarbox will help determine signage location.

b. Subcommittee updates

Forestry – Nothing new to report. Rose Farm Homestead firewood has been cleaned up by the forester, but a check has not been received by the Town yet. Mr. Tarbox spoke with the forester, who noted he has the check, but the Town Hall was closed when he came to deposit it. There may need to be additional work done on the property to further clean it up; Mr. Gelston will evaluate further and address as needed.

Education Outreach – Nothing new to report as Trail Guide is published and in distribution mode. \$24 received from the Pharmacy and the Library. Unfortunately, the Grist Mill cannot locate the donation box at this point, so money could not be picked up from there.

Stewardship – Mr. Tarbox talked with Mike Haines to get the key to the Trowbridge Road gate. He was able to locate the key, and the CC is now in possession of the gate key.

c. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – On the Banner property, the only issue is the diversion permit that may be applied for. Mr. Ventres received a call from the applicant's attorney and provided information to the attorney regarding the need for the diversion permit.

P&Z – There is not much activity involving the CC. There are a number of new proposals for new parking regulations as well as an anti-blight regulation. A number of modifications have been made related to the anti-blight regulation. Additional information was provided related to additional definitions to be added to the Zoning regulations. The definitions affect land use and that is within the CC's purview.

d. Patrell preserve trimming/mowing

Mr. Smith has not been able to meet with Public Works to discuss the using a brush cutter on Patrell to address the lower meadow invasive species growth/encroachment. Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Shea did an excellent job cutting what he could cut. If the brush is cut this year, Mr. Shea should be able to mow the whole field next year.

5. New Business

a. AG Committee update on Harris

No representatives attended from the Ag Commission. Mr. Smith noted that he had checked to ensure representatives would attend. Ms. Carlson also noted she attended the Ag Commission meeting the day prior, and she confirmed representatives would attend. Ms. Carlson noted that the work done on the Harris property was not completed for the Ag Commission. Mr. Tarbox and Mr. Smith noted that the work done was on behalf of the Ag Commission, so there is a misunderstanding that must be addressed. Given that representatives have not been able to meet with the CC, the CC will make accommodations to attend the Ag Commission meeting. Ms. Merrow asked if there is any documentation that shows what part of the property is going to be used for what purpose. For the next meeting, Mr. Smith will ensure that the Harris property purchase details will be reviewed and discussed.

The next Ag Commission is scheduled for January 7, 2013. Mr. Smith will talk with Harvey Thomas to find out why there was no representation, as well as attend the next Ag Commission meeting.

b. Trail Marking – Harris

Mr. Smith discussed creating trails with Mr. Ventres, given his interest in getting trails established. There is a proposed work party to build trails on Harris in the near future. The property provides a great view of Long Island Sound and the stars. The good news is that since existing trails will be leveraged, trail marking will be easy. Mr. Smith will send an email to the CC outlining the work party details on 12/16.

6. Next meeting – January 8, 2013 at The River House

7. Announcements and other discussion

Ms. Goyette will ensure it is easy to locate in the files the CC statute and regulation for future reference.

Regarding trail marking, there are a number of different ways to mark the trails. The CC has a trail marker, and the suggestion is to mark the beginning of the trails with the metal markers and then blaze the trails using different colors.

Mr. Smith noted that if one views a map from space looking from Boston to New York, East Haddam is one of the darkest areas, which means very little light pollution.

Regarding the potential new open space, there is now a budget shortage within the State, which may impact the ability to purchase open space. Impact remains to be seen.

Mr. Tarbox discussed the work that the Pizinni property needs related to the linear trail being created. The Pizinni property is very rocky, and there is a stone wall that will need to be opened to allow for access, which can be addressed when the trail is created. Mr. Smith has had a number of conversations with the different properties regarding horses. No issues have been raised. Concern was raised to ensure that trail users understand that hunting may be going on at different times of the year.

Mr. Gelston noted that this is the last meeting of the year and the CC needs to lay out a plan to create trails on the properties the CC stewards. The Rose Farm Homestead should be one of the next ones to have a trail marked, given the interest by Ray of Light Farm. Mr. Smith noted Mr. Lyman's suggestion to utilize Eagle Scouts to create trails. Harris, Dean and Shugrue all provide excellent opportunities for a large number of trails for the public to use. Mr. Smith suggested that the CC create a 1-weekend-a-month trail working party, which the CC agreed would be a good idea. Mr. Smith will also work with Mr. Ventres to create a work plan regarding trail guides.

The CC needs to think about general policies and guidelines related to good public etiquette while on public land.

Ms. Goyette will check the Town website to ensure the trail guide is available.

## 8. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Tarbox to adjourn at 8:40 pm, second by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

- Draft Town of East Haddam – Draft – Anti-blight Ordinance