

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

Sept. 11, 2012

Adopted October 2, 2012

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at 7:24 PM at the River House. The Interim Chairperson (Rob Smith) being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Peggy Carlson, Charlotte Gelston, Sue Merrow, Claire Maeder.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes for 8/07/12

Roll Call: Moved Charlotte Gelston from Others Present to attendee list.

Roll Call: Removed Others Present

4.b. changed "tow" to "toe".

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

4. Old Business

a. Signage

Signs are almost finished. ETA is end of next week or early the following week. The metal had to be reordered due to some color issues. Ms. Maeder will provide the signs to Mr. Smith, who will follow up with Mr. Ventres to determine how to get them posted. Ms. Maeder also connected with the Town's Finance Director, who has outlined how to get the signs paid for. She has also provided a copy of the bid to the Finance Director as well. By next month, there should be signs posted so the public can find the open space parcels.

b. Bridge work

Mr. Smith provided pictures of the Sheepskin Hollow bridge as an example of the type of bridge that must be built on Patrell. Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Tarbox tried to obtain an IWWC permit, but Mr. Ventres indicated the engineering specifications must be provided prior to getting the permit. The bridge work is on hold until the engineer provides further information.

c. Subcommittee updates

Forestry – no updates at this time.

Trail guide – Ms. Maeder noted that the CC needs to send a press release regarding the trail guide publication. Mr. Smith will provide to the Reminder.

No other updates for the subcommittees.

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d. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Banner must get the diversion permit, so there will be no additional discussion related to that topic.

P&Z – There is a significant change related to bonding within the General Assembly, which makes it much more complex to post bonds. P&Z is discussing a host of other topics as well at this month's meeting.

e. Property names – preserves, parcel or property?

Boot Rock and Patrell are preserves. Others are either parcel or property.

f. Patrell preserve trimming/mowing

Ms. Maeder noted that Mr. Tarbox spoke with Mr. Shea, and he (Mr. Shea) was supposed to mow the Patrell preserve. Ms. Maeder will email Mr. Smith specifics regarding if the lower meadow was mowed as well.

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

10.6 miles is the proposed trail length. Parts of it are on State Forest Roads. One of the goals is for the whole trail to be usable by horses. Hunting is permitted during the fall on some of the properties that the trail traverses. The status is that the trail is moving forward quite rapidly. There are a few outstanding questions with Yale which must be resolved. Trail name has not been named yet. The CC suggested Four Town Trail as a potential name.

5. New Business

a. Promotion subcommittee Celebration Event

Table until next spring for further discussion.

6. Next meeting – October 2, 2012 at The River House

7. Announcements and other discussion

The FFA students will be re-engaged. Mr. Smith will be reaching out to the Vo-Ag teachers to discuss next steps.

Ms. Matthew provided an update to Mr. Smith that she needs to take a leave of absence from the CC for the duration of the year. The CC discussed that Mr. Smith can continue to act as Interim Chairperson for the remainder of the year. No other CC members expressed interest in the Chairperson-ship.

Ms. Gelston noted that the Forestry fund has been made whole with monies restored to it. There is now a total of \$5853 within the Forestry fund.

Ms. Gelston noted the Trail Guides total is \$581, which represents the amount collected thus far. Oct. 13th is 8-mile Riverfest located in Devil's Hopyard – please mark your calendar. Mr. Smith discussed having a shared table with the Land Trust. The CC felt that was a good idea.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Carlson to adjourn at 8:27 pm, second by Ms. Maeder , unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- Proposed Hiking Trail - draft