

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

February 5, 2013  
Adopted March 5, 2013

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, February 05, 2013, at 7:18 PM at the River House. The Interim Chairperson (Rob Smith) being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present (via telephone).

a. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes for 1/8/13

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

4. Old Business

a. Budget

Mr. Smith met with the Town Finance Director and discussed breaking out the budget descriptors so that they better state what the CC is trying to do. He added public education and property maintenance/stewardship to better match to the subcommittees. There is an increase to the budget of \$3300, bringing the total budget to \$7700 now. In this budget, the CC is looking to establish a stewardship line to ensure there are monies to cover any maintenance, encroachment, etc. The idea is to have the budget more clearly stated so the public can understand what the CC is doing. Mr. Smith is going to meet with Bruce Dutch, the liaison with the Finance Committee, to ensure the budget is clear and to determine if more information is needed to explain what the monies are used/needed for. Forestry sub-committee has its own line item. Ms. Maeder noted the CC may need to plan for the reprinting the trail guide in the 2014 budget. There are additional trails being planned to warrant a reprint. Mr. Tarbox noted concerns regarding the Town having an additional \$3300 to add to the budget. Mr. Smith noted given the heightened demands of the CC to address parking, encroachment issues, etc., the CC needs more money to address the demands. The number and size of Town-owned space has significantly increased over the past few years as well. There was consensus to move forward with the proposed operating budget. Mr. Smith noted this year is a bit different as now the CC is going to request a Capital Budget, which has not been done before. The CC is proposing a Capital Budget to cover bigger expenses like the bridge between Patrell and Boot Rock. The CC is proposing a \$30,000 capital budget for year 2013-2014, \$10,000 for the next two years, then moving to a regular maintenance account. He and Ms. Matthew met with the Town Finance Manager, who did not

seem surprised by the request. The Town Finance Manager asked for long-term planning so further years are noted. Any project over \$5,000 is considered capital. Ms. Merrow suggested adding in as much detail describing the work proposed as you can, including hard figures. The bridge numbers were created based off the Sheepskin Hollow Bridge that the EHLT built. The Town Public Works may be able to help out with this, but historically they have been too busy to help. There was consensus to move forward with the proposed Capital Budget.

b. Subcommittee updates

Education, Outreach and Promotion – Ms. Maeder asked all CC members to keep track of the changes that need to be made to the trail guide whenever one walks a trail.

Stewardship/Forestry Management – Mr. Tarbox noted there will be no logging completed on Shugrue given that there is not enough timber and it is difficult to get to.

c. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – tabled.

P&Z – tabled.

d. Update on potential open space

Mr. Smith provided more information on the potential properties for open space acquisition. A walk was held a few Sundays ago – with a strong turnout. The DEEP grant is for 50% of the contract price. The schedule for town meeting is in early April and the referendum in late April. The development lot yield would have been 19-20 lots on Zieller and 13+ lots on Pages. The EHLT will donate \$35,000 to the purchase and will be handling the marketing mailing campaign explaining the property and encouraging people to purchase the properties.

e. Patrell Bridge

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Ventres for an update on the bridge. There is a survey being done, and we are waiting for that to be completed. Once completed, the Engineer will complete the bridge plans.

f. Trail Marking – Harris

There were 8 or 9 people who attended. The orange, yellow, red and blue trails were all marked – blazed with paint. Most of them were pre-existing and easily followed. There is a bit more work that can be done on them, but they are ready for public use. It is easily identifiable to walk them.

g. Eightmile linear trail

Mr. Smith provided an update regarding the Eightmile linear trail that will begin on Boot Rock and Patrell. He provided handouts regarding three different segments – all are drafted but not GPSed. It is 10.5 miles from beginning to end. It goes through 4 towns – East Haddam, Salem, Lyme and East Lyme. There are some trail guide grants that exist and could be used, if granted, to cover/address signage and mapping. The EHLT may be the organization that applies for the grant.

5. Next meeting – March 5, 2013 at The River House

6. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Tarbox suggested following up with the Selectmen's Office to inquire about the status of Sunrise. Mr. Smith noted all buildings have been numbered and a number of buildings must be torn down.

There will be a dam removed at Ed Bill's Pond off of Salem Road, off of Rt. 156, which will remove another barrier on the Eightmile River. The DEEP has put additional restrictions on the dam removal, but it is moving forward. The additional restrictions will cost an additional \$300,000, and ensure the muck behind the dam does not move downstream. The dam was built to create a swimming hole in the 1930s.

The Annual meeting for CAWS is coming up on March 21<sup>st</sup>. There is money in the budget for a CC member to attend, if interested.

There is a CT Land Use Law commission meeting on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. There is money in the budget for a CC member to attend, if interested.

The Town's Anti-blight ordinance has changes being proposed. Any change will have to go through a Town Meeting.

Lake Hayward dam has been noted as needing work.

## 7. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Merrow to adjourn at 8:42 pm, second by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary