

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

Adopted July 9, 2013

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2013, at 7:19 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Sue Merrow, Peggy Carlson, Charlotte Gelston, Todd Gelston. Others present: Marilyn Gleeson, Paul Sienna

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes for 6/4/13

Moved TJ Tarbox to “others present” and added Paul and Jack Sienna.
Added that a certificate of appreciation was provided to Mr. Taxbox.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry – Nothing new to report.

Education, Outreach and Promotion – Ms. Gelston noted \$976 in donations have been provided. Ms. Merrow’s article will be in the next Events magazine.

Stewardship – Signs are being modified with the plywood as previously noted, which must be done prior to posting.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Concern raised about culvert replacement work on Haywardville Road just west of Salem road, but Mr. Gelston noted that concern had been alleviated by plan of construction.

P&Z – Tabled.

c. Update on open space purchases

Pages property was purchased by the Town. The CC must think of a new name for the property. During a title search, the name Hatch came up. The Hatch family was a large property owner during the 1700s, but since that time, the family has died out. Potential names may be Hatch Lot or something with Hatch within it. Mr. Gelston suggested actually calling all the properties in the area something like “Parker Road Acreage” or something like that.

Parker Road Acreage – Hatch Lot was proposed and the CC members liked that.

Motion by Ms. Merrow that the open space parcels adjacent to Parker Road will collectively be referred to as “Parker Road Acreage” and then individual parcels will be named Dean Farm, Harris Property and Hatch Lot, second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

For Zieller, the property was re-boundaried to not include the pond. The demolition is basically done and cleaned up. Mr. Ventres made an executive decision to leave the foundation for the barn due to how sound it is. It is flush to the ground. Mr. Smith suggested “Roaring Brook Preserve” as a name. Ms. Merrow suggested that the CC define what a preserve encompasses for residents.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to rename Zieller to Roaring Brook Preserve, second by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.

d. Recruiting new members

Mr. Smith has not heard back from the Selectmen about a status of Mr. Sienna’s application.

e. CC Vision/Strategy

Ms. Merrow discussed the list created from the brainstorming session at the last meeting. Like things were categorized together under general headings and then like items within categories were further linked together. In reviewing, Ms. Merrow noted all looked rational and made sense to have on a vision list.

Discussion ensued around the list and what changes were needed.

Next steps is to look at the existing sub-committees and see if some can be combined. Also tangible deliverables need to be documented on what each sub-committee will be doing. Ms. Goyette will share the Patrell Management plan to the CC members for reference. Mr. Smith asked the members to review that prior to the next meeting to foster discussion.

5. New Business

a. New Member application

Ms. Gleeson joined the CC to talk about her interest in becoming a member of the CC. She moved to East Haddam in Sept. 2007, and is a life-long CT resident. She has been retired just over a year. She loves to walk the trails in the trail guide with her dog, and is conservation minded so would like to provide her skills to the work of the CC. Mr. Smith will send letters to the Selectmen regarding both Ms. Gleeson and Mr. Sienna’s applications.

Motion by Ms. Merrow to recommend to the Selectmen that Marilyn Gleeson be appointed as a regular member of the Conservation Commission, second by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.

6. Next meeting – August 9, 2013 at The River House

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Gelston and Mr. Smith both discussed the glowing article in the Sunday Hartford Courant about the Nichols property, especially the Orange trail. It was exciting to see it in writing!

Ms. Merrow discussed with Mr. Smith and then the CC that it would be nice to get a little something for the former Chairperson, Cynthia Matthew. Ms. Merrow will pursue purchasing the shrubbery so

people can provide cash to her. Ms. Goyette and Mr. Smith will create the certificate of appreciation, and then Mr. Smith and Ms. Merrow will connect on a good time to present her with them both. The Preserve in Saybrook is now under negotiation to purchase and it is one of the most important pieces of conservation between New York and Boston. It is 1000 acres and the last shore forest between Boston and New York.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Carlson to adjourn at 9:21 pm, second by Ms. Merrow, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Marilyn Gleeson's application
- Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.
- List of CC vision ideas