

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

December 3, 2013  
Adopted January 7, 2014

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at 7:20 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Marilyn Gleeson, Paul Sienna, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston. Others present: Emmett Lyman

2. Approval of Agenda

Add New Business: Bills, CLCC Membership, Budget, Hunting permit process

Motion by Ms. Gelston to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes for 11/19/13

Removed "l" from Joene's name on page 2 under Outreach and Promotion.

Motion by Ms. Gleeson to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Sienna and unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes for 11/13/13 (Forestry and Stewardship Sub-committee)

Added attachments – work party attendance and revised work party schedule  
Update on 4.a, removed "s" from trails pertaining to what Mr. Sienna and daughter raked.

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

5. New Business

a. Bills

Shagbark bill for total of \$61.98 has been received, for Forestry and Stewardship Sub-Committee work. Ms. Gelston will handle requesting payment for this bill.

Motion by Ms. Gelston to pay the bill as presented. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

b. CLCC Membership

Mr. Smith asked the CC if they were interested in retaining their membership in the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. The CC would like to continue to support. Ms. Gelston will handle requesting payment for this Council.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to continue the CC's membership at the same level as the previous year. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

c. Budget

Mr. Gelston noted that the 2013-2014 budget is pretty substantial. Mr. Gelston is concerned that the amount of work that needs to be done by the Town of East Haddam that has not been done. There needs to be more activity by the Town's Public Works department. Given the Stewardship work, there is quite a bit of work that must happen. Mr. Smith noted that much of the budget will be spent when parking lots are being created. Mr. Smith noted that Public Works has been very busy and focused on other work, but he is in contact with the Head of Public Works to ensure the CC work does not get lost/forgotten about. The priorities are to address the pump house and parking lot at Patrell; then create a parking lot at Rose Farm. There is additional work if there are monies available. There are other pieces of work that can be done. Mr. Gelston will call and speak with Mr. Shea about mowing the parking lot on Hatch Lot.

d. Hunting permit process

Mr. Smith noted the current process consists of interested hunters talking with Mr. Ventres and requesting a permit for a specific property during a specific season. At this time, there are not enough hunters to create a lottery. Mr. Lyman noted that the hunter must request a permit from the Selectmen's Office for a specific season (seasons consist of bow hunting, rifle/shotgun, muzzle loader, and then a second bow hunting season) with only 1 season permit per year on a specific property. The number of hunters has been determined ahead of time for each property that allows hunting. There are several restrictions for rifle/shotgun and muzzle loader seasons. Mr. Gelston suggested that perhaps the Selectmen's Office should publish an article in Events magazine outlining the hunting permit process. There must be clarification on the hunting permit process with the Selectmen's Office. Mr. Smith will follow up with the Selectmen's Office on this topic.

6. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry & Stewardship – Nothing to report on Forestry, except Mr. Gelston will need to hire a forester to survey another property for harvest potential. For Stewardship, there were 14 volunteers for the 11/23 work party. There is another work party scheduled for 12/07 to continue to work on the Hatch Lot property. Mr. Smith noted that given all the work on Hatch Lot over the past few work parties, any hunting on that property has been significantly interrupted, so he suggested that any work be limited on the exterior and related to the parking area to allow hunters to have the interior uninterrupted. There are a few additional items within the Hatch Lot's interior that must be done. Mr. Gelston is going to focus on the Hatch Lot parking lot to ensure that's addressed. If there is a large group that shows up to work, Mr. Gelston will split the group and have several go over to Rose Farm.

Volunteer Activism – Mr. Gleeson spoke with the High School Principal who wants her to work through Cheryl Matthewson. She will reach out to Ms. Matthewson and talk with her further. Ms. Gleeson will also reach out to Noah Ventola at the Middle School to connect with him as well.

Outreach and Promotions – Ms. Gelston did not collect any monies as it has been so slow, but will collect next month.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Nothing to report.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson will attend the next meeting.

c. Update on open space purchases

Mr. Smith noted that the closure date for grants has been moved to March 31, as a number of towns requested the move given the time they need to get appraisals completed. The Town was ready to submit given the old deadline, however, the deadline move potentially adds additional competition for the limited monies the State has. There will be at least 1 property submission for the grant from the Town of East Haddam.

d. Linear Trail update

Two weeks ago, Mr. Smith led a hike for the Eightmile Committee on the trail, from Patrell all the way to Gungy Road at the Salem town line. Everyone was happy with the trail, but there are some changes needed on the Darling Road preserve to straighten out the trail. Mr. Smith met with the district wildlife scientist, Ann Kirkpatrick, today, and walked the trail that he had reflagged given someone had removed the flagging. She provided approval of the location as well as approval to start working on it. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Gelston if the CC wants to be involved in marking this trail or if the EHLT should focus on the marking. Mr. Gelston noted that given all the focus on the town-owned properties, it would be great if the EHLT can focus on the Linear Trail markings. Mr. Smith will schedule the Dec. 21 EHLT work party to focus on the Linear Trail. The suggested trail name would honor Dick Goodwin, but has not been decided yet by all parties.

7. Next meeting – Jan. 7, 2014, 7:30, at The River House

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith requested Mr. Ventres have the Town Engineer provide the specifications for the beams for the Patrell/Boot Rock bridge.

Ms. Gleeson suggested hosting an Inaugural Celebration once the Hatch Lot work has been completed.

Mr. Gelston noted that when a CC-sponsored activity is underway, given the mountain lion sightings that have been in East Haddam, it would be wise to have at least 2 people together on a task.

On Jan 10, the EHLT annual meeting will cover topic of Mountain Lions.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Gelston to adjourn at 8:55 pm, second by Ms. Gelston, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Forestry and Stewardship revised work day schedule