

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

January 7, 2014

Adopted February 4, 2014

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 7:30 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Marilyn Gleeson, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston, Paul Sienna, Peggy Carlson, Sue Merrow – departed 8:45.

2. Approval of Agenda

Noah Ventola update will be tabled to next time due to his inability to attend. He will attend the next meeting.

Town Hall/CC minutes update added.

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

3. Approval of Minutes for 12/3/13

Correctly spelled Emmett's name.

6d. changed EightMile to Eightmile. Also changed Goodman to Goodwin about the trail name.

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

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry & Stewardship – Nothing to report on Forestry. Mr. Gelston provided an update on the Stewardship work. Much good work has been completed. Hatch Lot is pretty much ready for spring. Mr. Gelston will talk with Mr. Shea about mowing the parking lot when weather permits. The work party of Paul, Jack, Marilyn and Todd resulted in clearing the parking lot across from Bob Fiala's house. It can hold about 30 cars as it stands now. There is some debris that needs to be removed. They cleared two trails from the parking lot. There is clarification needed with one of the adjacent land owners. The updated schedule was also provided. For Rose Farm Homestead, the boundaries needs to be blazed, taking some time. The next Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 29 at 6:30, at Todd and Charlotte Gelston's house. Mr. Sienna will provide a copy of the volunteer sheet. Mr. Gelston also noted that it is important to get an inventory for each of the properties. Stewardship Management Plans are a good baseline for a property, but there are none in existence for most of the properties (Patrell had several inventories done previously). Mr. Smith suggested that it may behoove the CC to look at hiring some interns from the Yale School of Forestry. Also CT Botanical Society does walks but usually only on small pieces of land. Mr. Smith also noted that it may be helpful to have a contact on the CC website to make it easy for people to communicate what they have seen on the properties. Ms.

Marrow also suggested engaging the Christmas Bird Count and see if that group is interested in conducting a bird count on one of the preserves. Ms. Marrow also suggested engaging those involved in the rare and endangered species list. It would be interesting to see if any of the town properties have a rare and endangered species. Mr. Smith noted that for every town owned open space property, while the details are not known, there are rare and endangered species located there according to the State's database.

Volunteer Activism – Ms. Gleeson reached out to Ms. Matthewson and Mr. Ventola. Ms. Matthewson will post the Forestry and Stewardship information on the agriculture bulletin board as well as mentioning it in her classes. Mr. Ventola is very interested in letting the middle schoolers know about the weekend work parties. Both Mr. Ventola and Ms. Marrow submitted articles for the Events magazine. Ms. Marrow also made contact with the Boy Scouts troop, and the scout leader is very interested in discussing their needs for the troop. Ms. Marrow would like to meet with him and a few of the CC members at the local coffee shop to discuss. Ms. Gleeson, Mr. Sienna and Ms. Marrow will try to meet with the Scout leader this coming Sunday to discuss.

Outreach and Promotions – Trail guide distribution have been very slow due to the weather.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Nothing to report as meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson attended the last P&Z meeting. She provided an update on ongoing activities. Mr. Gelston thanked Ms. Gleeson for attending the meeting. Mr. Gelston noted that any new applications must follow the letter of the new zoning regulations, which will be quite a bit of work. Mr. Gelston noted that there is likely already a developer who is looking to submit a request under the new regulations.

c. Update on open space purchases

Nothing new to report. There are some pieces the town is looking to move forward for.

d. Linear Trail update

Mr. Smith noted that there is nothing significant to report. A second walk was held from Gungy Road into Nehanic State Forest. The Land Trust did not hold a work party on 12/21 due to the proximity of the holiday. There was a great response from Salem, Lyme and East Lyme about naming the trail after Dick Goodwin.

5. New Business

a. Town Hall/CC minutes update

Mr. Smith and Ms. Goyette discussed including all the attachments for the minutes within the Town Hall record with the Town Clerk. Due to legal requirements and space, the attachments would not need to be kept past 2 years and so there is a likelihood that they would be lost. As a result, the Town Clerk suggested keeping an official copy of the minutes with the attachments in the Conservation Commission Archives. Mr. Smith will be ordering a 4-drawer locking file cabinet for the CC. Mr. Smith and Ms. Goyette also looked at the Open Space spreadsheet and spent time updating the document. Ms. Goyette will send the document out to the CC members for review and further updates.

6. Next meeting – Feb. 4, 2014, 7:30, at The River House

7. Announcements and other discussion

On the EHLT New Year's Day hike, Mr. Smith noted that the Dean property signs still say "No trespassing" and need to be corrected.

Mr. Smith brought a copy of the Hunting Procedures from Mr. Ventres with a listing of the properties and who has received a permit and which property they are hunting on.

Ms. Gelston submitted the two bills approved at the last meeting to Linda Z at the Town Hall to be paid. Ms. Gelston will reach out to the Town Hall to ensure that the check was submitted for the CLCC annual membership. Ms. Gelston will also check with the CLCC to ensure they received the dues fees.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Gelston to adjourn at 9:00 pm, second by Ms. Gleeson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Hunting Procedures and Town of East Haddam Hunting/Trapping Permits (several pages)
- Work Party Attendance
- Updated Work Day Schedule and Property Assignment