

**East Haddam  
Conservation Commission**

June 1, 2010

Adopted September 2, 2010

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, at 7:02 PM at the River House. Cynthia Matthew being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Cynthia Matthew, TJ Tarbox, Sue Merrow, Pat Thomas, Peg Carlson and Nancy Mackinnon. Others present: Scot Mackinnon, Rob Smith.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Merrow to approve the agenda. Second by Ms. Mackinnon and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes for 5/4/10

Motion by Ms. Mackinnon to approve the minutes. Second by Mr. Mackinnon and unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee Updates:

i. Forest Management – T Gelston

Mr. Tarbox noted that Mr. Gelston is in the process of writing a cordwood removal contract and will then begin to screen applicants for removing the downed wood off of Rose Farm Homestead.

ii. Boundary Marking – TJ Tarbox

On Lyons 1, the CC walked the boundaries and Mr. Tarbox made several notes on the map. In addition, Mr. Tarbox marked the final boundary. The town will mow the field and install a gate on the old road.

Mr. Tarbox walked the Town Beach property and highlighted several problems. There is a boundary dispute with one of the neighbors and encroachment problems with another area. Several pins have been located, but there are additional areas that must be marked and the encroachment must be addressed. The boundaries must be well-defined for a logger to do any logging, and Mr. Tarbox believes it is possible to provide well-marked boundaries for the most part, with the exception of the area with the boundary dispute. There are some trails that the neighbors have created as well.

iii. Community Outreach – P Stuhlman

Tabled to next meeting.

- iv. School Program – P Thomas  
No further update on the program. Ms. Thomas noted that one of the Ag Teachers has been chosen as Vo-Ag Teacher of the Year in CT.
  - v. Trail Guide Project – P Thomas, H Thomas, K Klein  
Ms. Klein reported that there is a file in the CC file cabinet regarding the Trail Guide under Rockfall. Ms. Thomas will look for it. Ms. Thomas asked if the group felt that the best approach was to create a new book; the CC felt that is the best approach.
  - vi. Prioritization – C Matthew  
Updated prioritization spreadsheet has been provided. The Lyons information and Town Beach information Mr. Tarbox noted tonight will be included in the spreadsheet.  
Ms. Matthew noted that the 200 acres making up the Middle School property is Town owned property, but excludes the buildings and fields. The school's authority is only to manage the buildings and the fields used for the school.
  - vii. Plant and Bird Inventory – P Carlson & N Mackinnon  
Ms. Carlson is waiting for one last CT Botanical Society report to be completed and then the inventory will be complete.
  - viii. Horse Trail Mapping – P Carlson  
Ms. Carlson discussed this with Charlotte Gelston, who has already met with Mr. LaChance, and noted that most of the horse trails require crossing private property to connect with other available trails. This would require private landowners' permission to use, and could become problematic if publicized. She noted that the horse trail guide should be limited to dirt roads and town-owned properties with trailer parking available. This should be a long range project.  
Mr. Mackinnon noted that in some towns there are common right-of-ways for horse trails, which the CC may want to research.
- b. Naming open space: Lyons 1 walk  
Several CC members walked the Lyons property on May 22 to look at the property for potential names. Ms. Thomas noted that in her conversation with Mr. Ventres, he suggested using one name to cover all three properties along the Eightmile River. Mr. Ventres also felt that the names of those who donated the property should be included within the name. Mr. Tarbox noted that the three properties have all been owned by the Pizzini family. Ms. Carlson was impressed with the old road and suggested finding out if the road had a name that could be used. Mr. Smith discussed his conversation with Mrs. Lyons and said that the old road was created by the Pizinni family.  
Motion by Mr. Mackinnon to name the three properties the Eightmile River Preserve, with sub-units named Patrell, Pizzini and Shoe Rock [Lyons 1] to recognize the donors. Ms. Carlson seconded and unanimously approved.
- c. Budget update

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Ms. Matthew noted that the budget was approved pretty much intact as submitted. More than double last year's funds were requested and received. The monies in the budget can be used to pay the forester, who the Forestry Management Committee has hired.

5. New Business

a. Review of this year's accomplishments

Tabled to the next meeting.

b. Goals for the coming year

Ms. Matthew suggested that July and August meetings be used to wrap up the 2009/2010 goals and then the September meeting can be used to set the goals for the coming year.

Motion by Ms. Matthew to not hold the July and August meetings and resume monthly meetings in September. During the summer months the CC can use that time to finalize the subcommittee work. Ms. Merrow seconded and unanimously approved.

6. Confirmation of next Regular meeting: September 7, 2010 at the River House

7. Other discussion

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Mackinnon to adjourn, second by Mr. Mackinnon, unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Hawkins  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Prioritization spreadsheet
- Worksheet: Criteria for naming East Haddam Open Space