Conservation Commission



Joseph Sina
Chairman

The responsibility of the East Haddam Conservation Commission (EHCC) is to develop, manage and regulate natural resources in the town pursuant to Connecticut State Statue section 7-131a. Primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to, open space stewardship such as signage, marking boundaries, blazing and maintaining trails, inventorying of plant and wildlife, controlling invasive plants, planting native plants, and preparation and distribution of maps. In addition, the EHCC assists with the management of forestry and the review of land use changes for impact on natural resource with the Land Use office. East Haddam's many natural characteristics have drawn people to the community to enjoy the rural atmosphere, scenic vistas, recreational opportunities and many qualities of life that define what the town represents. Therefore, through community outreach and education, EHCC aims to be a vital asset to the Town and its citizens by advocating for sound environmental and conservation solutions that impact the Town and its future and is focused on upholding the tranquil, natural and rural quality of life within East Haddam.

Staffing

After more than 2 years without a recording secretary, we hired Lenice Triputti last summer. However, she was promoted at her full time job and had to abandon her position with the EHCC. In the Fall we hired Ruth Ziobron to take the position and Ruth has been a very reliable asset to us since her hire.

Position	Status	Budgeted Hours	Elected/Union/Non-Union
Recording Secretary	Hourly	75 hours/year	Non-Union

Statistics

Some interesting statistics regarding EHCC's responsibilities:

- Twenty-six (26) properties encompassing over 1,750 acres and 50-75 miles of boundaries
- Maintain over 25 miles of trails on about 1,500 acres of property
- Thirteen (13) bridges including:
  - Seventy-five-foot (75') bridge that is horse rider rated over the Eightmile River at Chapel Farm Preserve
  - Two-hundred-foot (200') bridge connecting the two (2) halves of Rose Farm Reserve
  - Twenty-five foot (25') footbridge across Roaring Brook near the Florida Rd entrance
- 8+ bog bridges for low lying areas at Shugrue and Moodus Forest
- Volunteer labor for the maintenance of the town open space properties consisted of about 1000 hours this past year.

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Major Service Level Accomplishments

- Installed and blazed trails on LeFebvre Preserve, including production of a trail map/brochure, kiosk, and map holder.
- Opened 3 additional properties and created maps for each; The Gelston Easement, Town Beach Preserve, and the Moodus Forest (the last was a cooperative effort between the EHCC and the EH Land Trust, which joined several LT properties including Monica's Woods). The Town Beach Preserve has been owned by the Town since 1962. A new trail was blazed that highlights a nice overlook and a large glacial boulder.
- Added approx 3 dozen native plantings at Patrell Preserve around the ADA trail.
- Built the footbridge at Roaring Brook Reserve.
- Increased the number of volunteer Reserve Monitors to 22.
- Completed the 9 member roster of the EHCC with the acceptance of Cameron Beard.
- Published 4 articles in "Conservation Conversation" in East Haddam News, and 2 in the Quarterly Events Magazine as of Jan. 2023
- Built 9 bridges, including 8 bog bridges and one footbridge over Roaring Brook.
- Established a new subcommittee on climate resilience and actively engaged with several state-sponsored organizations to address East Haddam concerns.
- A stewardship Saturday was held at Chapal Farm which drew in about 20 volunteers and cleared the area of invasive burning bush below Pizzini Pond. Native black elderberry (20+ plants) have since been planted there.
- EHCC participated at Riverfest, sponsored by the 8 mile River Coordinating Committee, the Spring Fling, sponsored by the Friends of Machimoodus State Park, and the Goodspeed Airport Festival, running a booth and distributing maps and answers to interested hikers.
- The Breast Cancer Awareness Challenge was run at 4 preserves in Oct., was well received with good participation. Winners will receive a small award of appreciation for finding all 4 of the posted signs.
- Suggested a floating bridge to the State in response to their request for input during Swing Bridge reconstruction.
- Provided letters of support for the Town's purchase of the Kronberg property, and the EHLT purchase of the Honey Hill Farm property.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Major Service Level Goals

- Install trails on the newly obtained Hayward Preserve, including production of a trail map/brochure.
- Construct a parking area on the Hayward Preserve.
- Work with The Nature Conservancy to build a connecting trail between Lefebvre Preserve and Burnham Brook Preserve.
- Continue additional plantings at Patrell Preserve around the ADA trail according to the plan.
- Remove the extensive invasive burning bush in the pond drainage area at Patrell Preserve, and replace it with native plants.
- Hold a minimum of one (1) Stewardship Saturday event that invites the public to join EHCC in stewardship activities.
- Identify, obtain and plant native seedlings for future use on our preserves to combat invasive plants.
- Conduct a minimum of one (1) guided hike.
- Work with East Haddam Land Trust to connect Robbie Road Town open space to Monica's Woods.
- Increase the number and engagement of volunteer Reserve Monitors.
- Identify any remaining town-owned open space properties that need to be surveyed and have professionally conducted surveys completed.
- Publish a minimum of four (4) "Conservation Conversation" articles in *East Haddam News.*
- Contribute a minimum of two (2) articles to the Town's quarterly *Events Magazine*.
- Evaluate the need for additional equipment (ie chipper) to promote recycling and to forward our service level goals.
- Evaluate the need for a storage area for EHCC equipment needed to maintain the properties.

Additional Budget Information

Purchased Property Services: $5,000: For surveying properties that were never surveyed and to mark boundaries.
Printing and Binding: $5,000: For printing trail maps and also to print any promotional materials needed to advertise outreach events. We will explore leaving maps at Getaway House, Inc, a new town business which expects 40,000 visitors a year.
Other Supplies: $3,400: For paint, hardware, lumber for kiosks, metal signage, and for plantings on the ADA trail at Patrell, and for "seeding" other preserves in order to combat the invasives like barberry, burning bush, and bittersweet.
Community Events: $1,000: We intend to hold events where we invite residents and provide small incentives to attend. Examples include talks on pollinator gardens and composting.
Storage/workspace: Equipment is being stored and work accomplished at the CC members' homes. We want to evaluate a rental or secure designated area where we can build kiosks, cut lumber, and store CC equipment.
Transfer to Special Revenue Fund: There is an existing fund balance in the special revenue fund: For the creation of parking lots or any other large expense initiatives as needed.
Clerical: $1,200. The CC has been without a recording secretary for more than 2 years. We need to hire a professional to do an adequate and accurate job.

Expenditures by Expense Type

Name	Account ID	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Budgeted	FY2025 Budgeted	FY 23-24 Approved Budget vs. FY 24-25Budgeted (% Change)	FY 23-24 Approved Budget vs. FY 24-25 Budget ($ Change)
Expense Objects							
Salaries & Wages							
CLERICAL	10541750-51540	$131	$1,051	$1,200	$1,200	0%	$0
Total Salaries & Wages:		**$131**	**$1,051**	**$1,200**	**$1,200**	**0%**	**$0**
Purchased Property Services							
PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES	10541750-54010	$0		$5,000	$5,000	0%	$0
Total Purchased Property Services:		**$0**		**$5,000**	**$5,000**	**0%**	**$0**
Purchased Other Services							
PRINTING & BINDING	10541750-55500	$1,197	$3,113	$3,000	$3,000	0%	$0
Total Purchased Other Services:		**$1,197**	**$3,113**	**$3,000**	**$3,000**	**0%**	**$0**
Supplies							
SUPPLIES	10541750-56010	$23	$132	$200	$200	0%	$0
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	10541750-56400	$0		$200	$200	0%	$0
OTHER SUPPLIES	10541750-56900	$4,430	$2,061	$3,000	$3,000	0%	$0
Total Supplies:		**$4,453**	**$2,193**	**$3,400**	**$3,400**	**0%**	**$0**
Miscellaneous							
DUES & FEES	10541750-58100	$0	$300	$500	$500	0%	$0
CONFERENCE	10541750-58110	$0	$160	$500	$500	0%	$0
COMMUNITY EVENTS	10541750-58815	$331	$282	$1,000	$1,000	0%	$0
Total Miscellaneous:		**$331**	**$742**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**	**0%**	**$0**
Transfers							
FUND TRANSFERS OUT	10541750-59020	$15,500	$15,500	$0	$0	0%	$0
Total Transfers:		**$15,500**	**$15,500**	**$0**	**$0**	**0%**	**$0**
Total Expense Objects:		**$21,613**	**$22,599**	**$14,600**	**$14,600**	**0%**	**$0**