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.

Ruth Ziobron has been our recording secretary for a couple of years, and 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 1200 hours this past year, with extensive efforts at Salmon R Overlook.

2025-2026 Accomplishments

Trail Enhancement:

Note: Past efforts in maintaining preserves were tacitly recognized by decision of E. Haddam family to place, at their own expense, a granite bench at Boot Rock where the parents had often enjoyed hiking.

- Work at Salmon River Overlook (numerous individual hours) clearing knotweed around gazebo and new plantings of apple trees, swamp white oak, and black walnut; brush hogging to keep down mugwort.
- Put up 4 bluebird boxes across Patrell, Lefebrve, and Urbanik; other boxes available in storage shed as needed
- Closed out plot at Community Garden, planting highbush cranberry viburnum around Patrell and Lena, and black walnut at Hatch Lot
- Contracted to clear shrubs, small trees around viewing with forest mulcher to restore view from chairs and picnic table at Hatch; followed up with work party to put in plantings and clearing debris

Trail Maintenance (across 19 preserves):

- Replacement bench built and installed at Nichols and at Patrell; bench at Pickeral Lake dam repaired
- Evaluated use of ox power to help place bench at Patrell and to haul material for bog building bridge
- Continue to remove litter and debris from the Winterbrook open space.
- Expanded parking at Urbanik.
- Set numerous pins and border tags on Kronberg Property
- Rerouted trail at Dean Easement through the Brown Property adjacent to Parker Road in addition to signage.
- Regular oversight and maintenance of Goodwin Trail

Work with other organizations/community

- appointed liaison to Sustainability committee and joint their events when possible
- worked closely with EHLT on work parties
- Article in 2 Events magazines, and 8 articles published in E. Haddam News
- Manned table at River Fest and Machimoodus Spring Fling to highlight trails and hand out literature
- Partnered with Master Gardener intern to clean up and mulch pollinator garden at Patrell

Climate Change Resilience

- Articles on climate impacts and Succor Brook project in Conservation Conversations column in the East Haddam News and as general news articles.
- Educational outreach continuing; partnership initiated with EightMile Wild and Scenic River, Lifeforms Inc, and the East Haddam School District to develop educational modules based on two of the Eightmile River Watershed's Outstanding Resource Values – Natural Communities and Intact Watershed Ecosystems
- Completion of CIRCA East Haddam Resilience report on Succor Brook
- DEEP project Advancement Grant application for implementation of CIRCA recommendations
- Application for Long Island Sound Partnership Planning Support Grant for Natural Resources Inventory and Nature-Based Solutions for flooding East Haddam Village floodplain
- Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program East Haddam Resilience Report
- Climate Leader designation by Sustainable CT

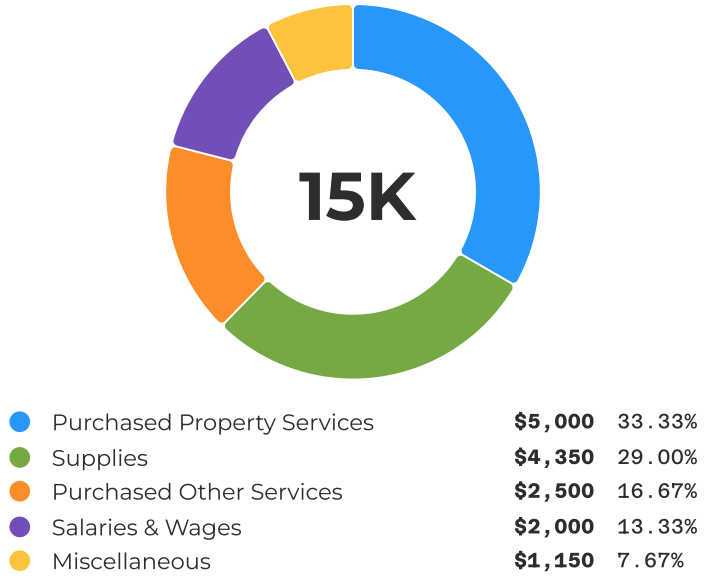
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Major Service Level Goals

- Consider increasing the number of members on the Commission to 8 regular and 3 alternate to gain additional committed manpower
- Trail maintenance and enhancement will require the most manpower and cost for the CC over the 19 properties
- Evaluating ways to maintain mowed area of Hatch, possibly by arranging for someone to plant hay
- Invite reserve monitors to a regular meeting to discuss what they enjoy about the trails and what would enhance their enjoyment of the trails, and to get them more involved
- Continue interaction with school (e.g., students looking for senior projects, environmental club), and students working with Parks and Recreation
- Contribute at least 6 articles to East Haddam News or Events magazine
- Work with representatives from UCONN CT Trail Finder to make maps and information more widely available; initial draft can be accessed at: https://www.cttrailfinder.com/trails/trail/preview/k/f0a8041063eec8c640ecd86fb322e744

Conservation Commission Financials

Expenditures by Object Summary

FY27 Expenditures by Object Summary



Expenditures by Object Summary

Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget vs. FY 2027 Budgeted ($ Change)	FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget vs. FY 2027 Budgeted (% Change)
Salaries & Wages	$1,389.20	$1,412.88	$2,000.00	$2,000.00	-	0.00%
CLERICAL	$1,389.20	$1,412.88	$2,000.00	$2,000.00	-	0.00%
Purchased Property Services	-	-	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	-	0.00%
PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES	-	-	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	-	0.00%
Purchased Other Services	$2,203.83	$620.14	$3,000.00	$2,500.00	-$500.00	-16.67%
PRINTING & BINDING	$2,203.83	$620.14	$3,000.00	$2,500.00	-$500.00	-16.67%
Supplies	$3,444.15	$4,195.09	$4,400.00	$4,350.00	-$50.00	-1.14%
SUPPLIES	-	-	$200.00	$300.00	$100.00	50.00%
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	-	-	$200.00	$50.00	-$150.00	-75.00%
OTHER SUPPLIES	$3,444.15	$4,195.09	$4,000.00	$4,000.00	-	0.00%
Miscellaneous	$270.00	$125.00	$1,800.00	$1,150.00	-$650.00	-36.11%
DUES AND FEES	-	-	$300.00	$100.00	-$200.00	-66.67%
CONFERENCE	$270.00	$125.00	$500.00	$300.00	-$200.00	-40.00%
COMMUNITY EVENTS	-	-	$1,000.00	$750.00	-$250.00	-25.00%
Total Expenditures	**$7,307.18**	**$6,353.11**	**$16,200.00**	**$15,000.00**	**-$1,200.00**	**-7.41%**