

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

May 11, 2020
Adopted June 2, 2020

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Monday, May 11, 2020, at 7:30 PM via zoom/telepresence. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

Marilyn Gleeson, Bernie Gillis, Charlotte Gelston, John Olin, Thom Delventhal, Gary Wilson

2. Appointment of Alternates

No alternates needed

3. Approval of Agenda

No items can be added given the meeting is a Special meeting

Motion by Mr. Delventhal to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Mr. Gillis and unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 3/3/20

Page 2 under A. Old business – last paragraph, fixed Shugrue spelling

8. changed mat to map

B. Added Moodus Reservoir when discussing the causeway

Motion by Mr. Delventhal to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Gillis and unanimously approved.

5. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gillis noted that he has been able to get out on the trails.

Sabine – there is an issue with washout in the parking lot on Daniel Peck Road. He did shore up the footbridge. The blue trail needs to have several markers repainted.

Shugrue – the white trail was cleared and marked. The orange trail was tentatively marked but there's more tree removal work that is needed.

Roaring Brook – Mr. Gillis marked the red trail, blue trail needs a work party to mark it. The kiosk was installed.

Urbanik – the red and blue trails have been cleared; the kiosk needs maps though.

Rose Farm – Mr. Smith wants to change the blue trail due to the beaver intrusion.

Lena – there is a tree across the Babcock Road extension, and Mr. Gillis is looking for guidance on if that should be removed. Ms. Gleeson will check with Mr. Smith to check see if that tree should be removed.

Harris – the trees on the orange trail have been addressed.

Mr. Delventhal offered to help Mr. Gillis on any future work parties in the future. Moving the blue trail on Rose Farm is a priority and Mr. Gillis will reach out to Mr. Delventhal to let him know the details. Mr. Olin noted that he would like to help as well.

Outreach and Promotion: Nothing to note.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to note.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Nothing related to the Conservation Commission.

P&Z – Mr. Gillis noted that there have not been any meetings since the quarantine has been instituted.

6. New Business

a. New bills

On Silas Holmes Road, there is a parking area with some dead trees that are a hazard to be removed. Mr. Smith got a quote of \$1600 to remove the 8+ trees to address

Motion by Mr. Delventhal to approve tree removal on the parking lots at Rose Farm, seconded by Ms. Gelston. Unanimously approved.

b. Community Garden

A community garden plot is being planted up at the community garden on the Harris property. There is work underway to see what programs can be offered to the public on things like pollinator gardens and such. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Gleeson will be working on that. Mr. Wilson will provide a picture of the bill on the plants purchased for the Community Garden to Ms. Gleeson for reimbursement. Mr. Wilson purchased several plants to add to the garden including ones that are good for combating invasive species. Linda Z. informed the Recording Secretary that the top soil was spread today and that Mr. Ventres will be marking and determining the plot that will be assigned to the CC.

c. Merrow Resignation

Ms. Gleeson read Sue Merrow's resignation letter to the CC members. Mr. Delventhal echoed his fellow commissioners' feeling in that he misses her already.

d. Regular member openings

With Ms. Merrow's resignation, there is now a regular member opening. Ms. Gleeson asked if Mr. Delventhal would like to move from an alternate to a regular member. There is still an opening available for another member to join the CC.

Motion by Mr. Gillis to vote for Mr. Delventhal as a regular member, second by Mr. Wilson. Unanimously approved.

e. New trail maps

Ms. Gleeson created new maps for Shugrue and Roaring Brooks and she has revamped the maps to simplify the colors. She was running out of colors as there are a large number of maps that she has created. She changed the CC maps to blue, EHLT are brown and the Nature Conservancy is green. She chose that color due to the color of the signs on the property. They are at the printer and she is waiting to get them back. Linda Z. will put them on the website. Ms. Gleeson will notify the members once they are done.

f. EHLT video

Ms. Gleeson asked the CC members if they had received the video on Hammond Mills that the EHLT put together. There are future videos being released shortly, and Ms. Gleeson will provide to the CC members as well.

7. Next meeting – June 2, via Zoom.

8. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Delventhal would like to discuss at the next meeting a way to permanently honor Ms. Merrow for her numerous years of service to the Town of East Haddam. Ms. Goyette will add that to the next meeting's agenda. Mr. Gillis noted that a tree would be a lovely way to commemorate Ms. Merrow's service.

Mr. Wilson noted that most of the plants within the pollinator garden at the ADA trail survived the winter. The white spruce trees are looking very good but need to be planted (right now they are not planted in their permanent spots); Mr. Wilson is looking to get the rest of the plants planted soon.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Delventhal to adjourn. Second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary