East Haddam
Conservation Commission

July 7, 2020
Adopted September 1, 2020

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2020, at 7:30 PM. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

   a. Roll Call
      Marilyn Gleeson, Gary Wilson, Charlotte Gelston, John Olin, Bernie Gillis

2. Appointment of Alternates
   Mr. Olin appointed as full voting member for Mr. Delventhal.

3. Approval of Agenda
   Under New Business, add G. Master Gardener looking for project

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 6/2/20
   6a. Fixed Garmin spelling
   6f. Added fiscal to the last sentence

   Motion by Ms. Gelston to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved.

5. Approval of Plan of Conservation and Development sub-committee
   Updated 4.1 section to add "adopted the Eightmile Management plan and has mapped an overlay zone to protect the Eightmile and small tributaries"

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

6. Old Business
   a. Subcommittee updates
      Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gillis provided an update on Rose Farm – he placed a directional post at the yellow and white trails to make it clearer where trails lead. He removed a tree and a bunch of roots that would trip people along the white trail.
      On Patrell, a tree fell on the bridge causing some damage. Mr. Gillis removed the tree and made some repairs to the bridge. There are other trees that could come down in the future. Mr. Gillis also received an email from a regular walker who noticed that poison ivy has been getting into the red trail, he sprayed it with herbicide to address it.
      On Urbanik, Mr. Gillis, Mr. Smith and Mr. Olin installed a kiosk at the gate and near the road. They also moved several of the signs to the kiosk. The original sign will be removed.

Mr. Gillis also walked Lafebre and Mr. Smith will join him to provide him some background. Long term, the plan is to make a trail connection between Lafebre and Burnham Brook.
On the white trail on Shugrue, Mr. Gillis created a new loop there to make it easier. Mr. Gillis talked with Ms. Pagnano who asked if there was work out on the trails she could do. He noted that the trails need to be trimmed.
On the Goodwin Trail, Mr. Gillis and Mr. Olin installed a new trail to bypass the beaver obstruction.
On Lena, Mr. Gillis, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Olin installed a kiosk at the parking lot off of Babcock Road. They also walked down the blue trail and cleared trees off that trail.
Roaring Brook, Urbanik and Lena all need maps installed; Mr. Gillis will install the map holders as well.
The CC discussed members each taking a few properties and making sure there are maps at the properties. Mr. Wilson will check Lena, Chapal Farm, Hatch Lot and Roaring Brook. Mr. Olin will check Harris, Rose Farm, Chapman Farm and Dean. Outstanding are Shugrue which Ms. Pagnano had noted she will check on. Urbanik and Burnham Brook will be checked by Ms. Gleeson. Mr. Gillis will check Davison and Sabine. Ms. Gleeson will bring the maps to the Land Use Office.
Mr. Gillis noted that the bypass installed at Rose Farm to address the beaver issues has worked out great with many people using it.

Outreach and Promotion: There was much discussion on the importance of communicating out to the public around the work the CC does.
Mr. Olin has finished his article for the Events magazine and will provide to Linda Z. He also discussed writing for the East Haddam newspaper with Mr. Haloran and providing a regular piece to that newspaper. The newspaper will publish between 700-800 words; Mr. Olin is taking some time to think through which forum is best for which kind of piece and then will create a plan to provide regular updates to both the newspaper and Events magazine.

Volunteer Activism: Nothing to note.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates
IWWC – No update as Mr. Delventhal did not attend.

P&Z – Mr. Gillis noted that there was nothing of pertinence to the CC.

c. Plan of Conservation and Development
Mr. Wilson provided an overview of next steps now that the sub-committee has met. He asked the CC for thoughts on what they would like to prioritize.
There was discussion on the recycling, water preservation, horse riding trails, connection to the East Haddam Lake Association, forest management, support for conservation issues, school outreach and scenic road standards. Much of the conversation revolved around long term planning and work related to these items. Ms. Gleeson asked Ms. Gelston to pull together some of the horse riding information as well as scenic road standards. Ms. Gleeson also asked the other CC members to think through what can be done short and long term to support these items.

Mr. Olin will reach out to the East Haddam Lake Association and discuss the possibility of partnering on advertising the ECHO harvester and see if there is any interest in connecting with the CC on that publication.

d. Letter for Joe Zaid
Postponed to the next meeting.

e. Trail Monitors
Ms. Gleeson shared what the East Haddam Land Trust is doing for the trail monitors. People who regularly walk a property, they report any issues to whoever is the trail monitor coordinator. The document outlines that process – a special email comes thru the EHLT website to the stewardship chair. The focus is to handle small clean-up work, but would require no use of power tools. Ms. Gleeson would like to implement a similar process for town-owned open space, with a special email address through the Town's website that would go directly to the stewardship chair. The focus is to engage frequent users of the trails to voluntarily provide some light trail maintenance and provide the stewardship committee with information on any need for heavy trail maintenance (tree removal, etc.). The CC liked the idea and wanted to move forward with it for the CC; Mr. Wilson will review the document and fine-tune it for the CC. Ms. Gleeson noted that the email needs to be created and set up prior to any publication.

f. Something for Sue Merrow
Ms. Gleeson suggested donating money to Ray of Light to honor Ms. Merrow's love of horses. While there was much discussion, the CC really liked the Ray of Light donation idea. Ms. Gleeson will provide an email with the information for anyone who is interested in donating in honor of Ms. Merrow.

7. New Business

a. New bills
No new bills.

b. Eagle Scout (Ethan Kerr) project update
Ethan Kerr was providing 8 Adirondack chairs on 4 East Haddam Land Trust and 4 Town of East Haddam, but with COVID-19, he has had to reduce the number of chairs to 6 total. He can only provide the chairs for Sabine, Hatch Lot and Salmon River Overlook, and he will need to prepare the sites for the chairs, which will be delivered after his 18th birthday. Ms. Gleeson provided Mr. Gillis with maps of where the chairs will be placed and provided him with all the materials for Mr. Kerr's project. The CC will build the platform, but Mr. Kerr will clear the land.

c. Agenda time limits
Ms. Gleeson noted that at Land Trust meetings, agenda items are provided from all members along with estimated discussion time. The goal is to try to keep to that time, to ensure the meetings move along quickly. The overall goal is to engage the CC members further in the meetings going forward.

8. Next meeting – August 4, at Meeting room #1, Municipal Office Building

9. Announcements and other discussion

10. Adjournment

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

    Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

    Respectfully submitted,
    Shannon A. Goyette
    Recording Secretary

- Trail monitor information
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