East Haddam
Conservation Commission

February 2, 2021
Adopted March 2, 2021

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held via Zoom on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 7:30 PM. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call
Gary Wilson, Thom Delventhal, Bernie Gillis, Marilyn Gleeson, Susan Pagnano, John Olin

2. Appointment of Alternates
No alternates needed.

3. Approval of Agenda
6d. Update on Babcock Road sign
6e. Access to Town property via Monica's Woods
6f. Lisa Wahle to speak about New England Cottontail

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

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 1/5/21
1. Update date to 2021.
5. Change agenda to minutes
5a. Change Chapel to Chapal
5a. Update Root to Rock
5a. Added Lena to property.
5b. changed think to "consider in", remove "of"
5b. added "at Salmon River Overlook and at Patrell Preserve"
5b. capitalized Milorganite
5c. changed "being" to "be"
5d. added "if"
6c. changed "species" to "insect", changed "there" to "this", added "than usual for us"
6d. added "sometimes"
6e. moved maps to after Rose Farm and fixed Chapal misspelling

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

6. Old Business
a. Subcommittee updates
Stewardship and Forestry Management sub-committee: Mr. Gillis, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Olin and Mr. Delventhal installed the kiosk at Shugrue.
Mr. Gillis noted the Reserve Monitor posters have been installed at all kiosks.

On Patrell, Mr. Gillis walked the orange and red trails removing trees; those trail markings need to be repainted in the spring. There are some plastic trail markers on the red trail thathe will replace in the spring as well.
The pavilion has been installed on Salmon River Overlook; a railing needs to be installed prior to announcing it to the public to ensure the public's safety. Ms. Gleeson discussed thepotential of holding a spring program on birding with an EHLT member, to celebratethe pavilion installation. Anchors will be added to hold the building in place.
Mr. Gillis visited Davison and cleared several trees. The red trail needs to be repainted in the spring.
On Roaring Brook, Mr. Gillis cleared downed trees on the red and blue trails.
The map holders at Urbanik need to be replaced as they are cracked; Mr. Gillis will replace them.
Mr. Olin will check on the need for an IBA map holder on the Dean property.

i. Outreach and Promotion:

Mr. Wilson will provide to Ms. Gleeson the article on the advantages of native plants for publication in East Haddam News. His article on the invasives is ready for publication in the East Haddam News. Mr. Delventhal's New England Cottontail is complete and will be submitted soon to the East Haddam News. The spotted lanternfly article will be included within the next Events magazine.
Ms. Gleeson signed up for the Composting Master Gardener class and has ordered several signs showing what to include in a compost pile. Ms. Gleeson and Ms. Pagnano will discuss planning a spring event related to composting; the thought is to provide the composting signs to the first 6 people who sign up for the event.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC:

Mr. Delventhal missed the IWWC meeting due to a calendaring issue.

ii. P&Z:

Mr. Gillis noted the Getaway cabin proposal has been approved. The Ag Committee is rewriting the agriculture regulations, which will be reviewed by P&Z in the future.

iii. Open Space Committee:

There is a 124-acre parcel on O'Connell Road extension being considered for recommendation for Town purchase. A grant proposal has been submitted for this purchase, but any purchase would require a Town referendum.

c. Planting/existing garden updates

Mr. Wilson reviewed the plan he created with the commissioners and Master Gardener volunteers. It will not be populated with as many plantings as the pollinator garden. There are 22 different plants suggested, with a budget of ~$2000. The hope is to purchase many of the plants from the CT River Coastal Conservation sale, which normally occurs in April (note: unknown if this event will occur thisyear or when). There is space for wild flowers, if desired. Discussion ensued related to the plants and trees included within the proposal. Ms. Gleeson will run the proposal by the First Selectman and will provide feedback to Mr.

Wilson on moving ahead. Ms. Gleeson asked Mr. Gillis to check with the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee on grant opportunities available to support this proposal, which hewill do.
Mr. Gillis noted there is interest in planting chestnut trees within the Eightmile River watershed; discussion ensued about planting chestnut trees within Chapal Farm as that is a definite opportunity.

d. Eagle Scout Project update (Adirondack chairs update)
Ms. Gleeson noted that the EHLT has agreed to support the Adirondack chair contest. The artist who writes the Mac'O'Moodus has agreed to allow the CC to use the cartoon to promote the chair contest. There will be an article in the East Haddam News shortly, and a new flyer will be printed up with the cartoon character included to promote the contest.

7. New Business

a. New bills
$25 Essex Printing for pollinator map

Motion by Mr. Delventhal to pay the bill as noted. Second by Mr. Gillis and unanimously approved.

$148.17 Shagbark for screws, pressure treated lumber and railing material for pavilion

Motion by Mr. Delventhal to pay the bill as noted. Second by Ms. Pagnano and unanimously approved.

b. Map reprinting/Welcome baskets
Ms. Gleeson received an email from Maureen Gillis, who is on the Committee on Aging. The Committee is interested in creating welcome baskets to new residents in Town. One of the ideas is to include maps in the baskets.
The commissioners reviewed their map supplies; several maps need to be reprinted. Mr. Wilson is out of Chapal Farm and Ms. Pagnano is out of Shugrue maps. Ms. Gleeson will check with Ms. Gelston to see if she has any more maps for those properties. She will also check with Mr. Olin to see what maps he needs.

c. Ideas for future outreach events
To build upon the success of the Adirondack chair contest, Ms. Pagnano suggested creating a contest around finding all the pink trails, which could be kicked off in October, for Breast Cancer Awareness month. Ms. Pagnano suggested picking smaller trails, to reduce trail marking time and as they would be a tiny bit harder to find, thus increasing the contest fun. Another idea would be to create a map of all trails, with each trail hiked receiving a stamp, similar to a brewery passport program. To reward participants who hike and stamp all trails, Ms. Pagnano suggested working with the East Haddam Business Association to partner with local businesses on little prizes.
Discussion ensued related to both ideas around how to make them work and what prizes could be provided. The commissioners really liked the pink trail idea and will think through the other trail passport idea more.

d. Update on Babcock Road sign

Ms. Gleeson talked with Mr. Smith about the signage on Babcock, who agreed a sign is needed. One will be installed in the spring. Until then, the CC will install a temporary directional sign to the Lena property onto the existing post that the permanent one will be installed on.

e. Access to Town property via Monica's Woods

At the intersection of Robbie Road, the Town owns a 29-acre parcel. The EHLT owns 3 parcels (aka Monica's Woods) that abut the 29-acre parcel, but have no road frontage for access. The EHLT would like to run a trail from Robbie Road across the 29-acre parcel to Monica's Woods, to its already partially established blue trail. On the Town-owned open space, there would need to be a parking lot, a trail and 2 small bridges installed to cross 2 streams (which would require IWWC involvement). The request is for the CC to provide to work with the EHLT Stewardship to create the connections tothe partially established trail. This request would need to be added to the CC priority list and prioritized.
Mr. Gillis will discuss with the EHLT the logistics and plans needed, their timetable as well as who is going to pay for the bridges.

f. Lisa Wahle to speak about New England Cottontail

Mr. Delventhal indicated Ms. Wahle offered to come speak to the CC about her program to support the New England Cottontail, but it may not be a good opportunity for East Haddam given program logistics. She runs other programs, which may be of interest to the CC.
Ms. Gleeson thought she might be open to speaking at a public event around one of the programs that she runs. Discussion ensued around what an event could look like. Mr. Delventhal will share with Ms. Wahle what the CC's purview is and then will discuss what topics she could speak about related to her various programs.

g. Other

Mr. Delventhal noted that he had talked with Mr. Ventres related to connecting with Getaway on ensuring their trail mapping is similar to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Ventres noted that the trail they have is an old 4-H trail and is limited in terms of the signage needed.
Mr. Delventhal asked for clarification related to providing the trail maps to Getaway. Ms. Gleeson noted that it is part of the plan to provide trail maps once Getaway is up and running, just as we currently do to Grandview Campground.

8. Next meeting – Tuesday, March 2, via Zoom.

9. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Wilson provided the Certificates of Appreciation to the Master Gardener volunteers. They were very appreciative and both are interested in staying involved in the work the CC is doing.
Mr. Wilson noted that the work that was done on the water tanker should be publicized. It was noted that there was already an article in East Haddam New about it. Ms. Gleeson asked that Mr. Wilson think through the plantings needed for the Community Garden as well.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

- Patrell ADA Garden Proposal
- Town Open Space Monica's Woods