East Haddam
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2021
Adopted May 4, 2021

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held via Zoom on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:30 PM. The Chairperson being in the Chair.

- Roll Call at 7:32 pm
  Thom Delventhal, Bernie Gillis, Marilyn Gleeson, Susan Pagnano, John Olin, Gary Wilson

2. Appointment of Alternates:John Olin appointed as alternate for Charlotte Gelston.

3. Approval of Agenda-

- Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Mr. Delventhal, seconded by Mr. Gillis.
- Agenda amended to add 5b iv. Eightmile updates.
- Motion to approve the agenda as amended by Mr. Gillis, seconded by Ms. Pagnano and unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 3/2/21
   - Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Mr. Delventhal, seconded by Ms. Pagnano.
   - Minutes amended as follows:
     - Roll call: correct Gary Olin to Gary Wilson
     - 5bii: Clarified the sentence regarding why P&Z was notified to read, "East Haddam P&Z was notified because that type of application is within 500' of East Haddam's boundary."
     - 5c: (second bullet) Corrected Mr. Wilson ordered and added "Cold Spring Farm" in Michigan. Also added that the cost was $20 because of a refund from last year's plants that failed to grow.
   - Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Mr. Delventhal, seconded by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved.

5. Old Business
   a. Subcommittee updates
      - Stewardship and Forestry Management:
        - On 3/7 Mr. Gillis and Mr. Olin were on LeFebvre and roughed in trails; hoped for work party but weather was bad, so it is planned for 4/11.
        - On 3/8 Mr. Gillis was on Harris and walked Orange and Red trails; took out a few trees.
        - On 3/19 Mr. Gillis was on Shugrue to verify the geocache locations.
        - On 3/23 Mr. Gillis painted the white trail on Lena; cleared some limbs and brush so it is much more navigable.
        - On 3/26 Mr. Gillis installed pollinator maps stand with Mr. Wilson and discovered a big oak tree down on the ADA trail which they cleared.
        - On 3/27 Mr. Gillis hiked Sabine on the orange and red trails which look good.

- Got a call from Kathy Golec who keeps an eye on Davison that it needed maps so Mr. Gillis refilled the maps there.
- Mr. Gillis walked the blue trail on Roaring Brook off of Florida Road. Needs to go back because there is a tree down.
- On 4/1 Mr. Gillis went to Boot Rock and installed the map in the kiosk. That parking lot is often full on weekends. Don't know if people are unaware that there is parking on Baker Lane.
- Dean, Rose Farm and Harris need maps. Mr. Olin will take care of those.
- Shugrue boundaries are not completely marked because not all the pins have been found. Mr. Gillis will check with Mr. Ventres. A horseshoe pit hasn't been moved and a shed is in violation. Only two pins on all of Longwood Drive. There are 1200' between them. Mr. Ventres as going to go back out there to mark the corners.
- Sabine laminated map is at Ms. Gleeson's house for when the kiosk is installed. Mr. Gillis is not sure where to put the kiosk because of drainage issues. Parking should be on the street, not off the street. Mr. Gillis said it needs some clearing by the Town to divert the water and to have the area cleared for the kiosk. Ms. Gleeson will talk to Mr. Smith.
- There is activity at LeFebvre to regrade Jones Hill, but the crushed stone is still in the parking lot. The perimeter of the parking lot is better.
- The pollinator kiosk is beautiful. A picture is on FB.

- Outreach and Promotion:
  - Event article is Reserve Monitor plea.
  - Running out of EH News articles. Mr. Wilson's native plants article was submitted. We talked about a horseback riding article from Ms. Gelston and promoting land conservation. It is a little too soon for land conservation to promote the O'Connell Road ext. property, but we do have a nice article from Mr. Olin.
  - We will do an event on LeFebvre when it is open.
  - We will do an event on composting, worm composting,
  - Mr. Delventhal is interested in writing an article for EH News on bats.
  - Ms. Gleeson shared that the Town of Haddam, specifically Haddam Neck, has an area where they are working to improve the habitat for New England Cottontails. The new librarian at Haddam Neck, Linda Hicks, might have a connection for us with the NE Cottontails.
  - Ms. Pagnano and Ms. Gleeson are going to do events at the Community Garden. The water tank will have a scavenger hunt for children; the lasagna garden will be done again; the sunflowers will be planted as well as part of Drew Ladd's project; a compost event as well; Ms. Gleeson will be picking up some composting items that could be given out to attendees at events.
  - An article on composting, the water tank and the sunflowers will be started by Ms. Pagnano.

b. Liaison Reports

- IWWC:
  - Mr. Delventhal the IWWC meeting but was unable to hear it. It was determined that a prior meeting had disconnected the microphones and the IWWC was not

aware of this.

- P&Z:
  - Bill Chilton putting in accessory apartment (across from Roaring Brook). His property has a cemetery on it that it that is actual Town property.
  - Enlargement of church at Johnsonville was approved with conditions.
  - Bioretention area near tennis courts in Lake Hayward area will clean runoff before water goes into the lake.
- Open Space Committee:
  - East Haddam Open Space Committee is preparing a document that will be distributed to us and to all Town Committees and Commissions and Community Groups. It will contain the property description, list of past grants, etc. regarding the O'Connell Road Ext. (Mulazzi) property. Not sure if this is what will be exactly what the Town will see. It is still a draft and being finalized by the Open Space Committee.
  - This was referenced in Mr. Olin's draft article and might not be able to be referenced if it is not available to the public. The details could be included but just not the reference to the document.
  - Mr. Olin will be travelling in May and June so needs to arrange things with Ms. Gleeson.
- Eightmile Wild & Scenic Committee:
  - They approved a $10,000 grant for the O'Connell Road Ext. property with a potential for an additional $5,000. The property protects the headwaters of the Eightmile River. It's a great deal at $1800/acre. The grant reduces it to $1700/acre. The State gave $96,000. The Town needs to come up with $216,000.
  - The Town is going for another grant with the Bafflin Foundation and possibly with Rockfall Foundation.
  - Referendum might be in June or July.
  - Eightmile also approved a grant to EHCC for plants for Patrell for $935.

c. Planting/existing garden updates:
- On March 27th, Mr. Wilson met with Ms. Kinsman and Kathy Bryson-25 red osier dogwoods planted at Community Garden. They will likely take some of the wood chips at the Community Garden to keep down weeds. He called the Town to not have our two lots plowed. Plans to plant groups of five of these to plant on our properties. These are now 1-2' seedlings. They are shrubs. The water tank has no water yet. Ms. Gleeson will find out when it will be filled. They don't mind having wet feet so areas with vernal pools would be good locations and grow up to 10' tall. There is an insect, sawfly, that is good bird food. Suggestions for locations included Urbanik by the Adirondack chairs and the picnic area on Davison. Davison might be difficult because of hauling water. Another suggestion was Hatch lot trail that goes to summit and Lena at low area where there is water. Urbanik seems like a good location by the pond. Had another contact from another Master Gardener intern that need hours to help out. Patrell will have 69 plants coming in on 4/23. Mr. Wilson will pick them up and keep them at his home until they are ready to be planted. Sixteen are needing to be order. Waiting to hear about Master Gardener grant, eta in April. Planting of 69 plants will need water at Patrell. Ms. Gleeson said Mr. Smith has said a tank there was possible.

There was also discussion about getting grasses on other properties, such as Urbanik and putting some plants on LeFebvre around the parking area and the wet area. Dean has some wet areas as well, but we would need permission since it is an easement and we do not own the land.

- Robbie Road is having a survey to determine a portion of the boundary to ensure the proposed trail is within the boundary. Ms. Gleeson has notified EHLT. Mr. Smith was not sure their trail was within the boundary. This is a 23-acre Town owned property that EHLT wants to access to get to EHLT property trails. There will need to be stream crossings and will need to go to IWWC. Depending on need for bridges/bog bridges, EHCC will likely not pay for them as EHLT will need to pay because we are doing this for them. EHLT is aware and agrees. The Town will make a small parking area.

6. New Business

a. New bills

- $1,297.69 Essex Printing for reprinting of trail maps. Motion by Mr. Delventhal to pay the bill as noted. Second by Ms. Pagnano and unanimouslyapproved.

- $1,272.00 CT River Coastal Conservation District, Inc. for plants for Patrell Preserve. $840.93 of this was paid for out of the money that EHLT had from an old grant they were holding so EHCC is only paying $431.07. Motion by Mr. Delventhal to pay the bill as noted. Second by Mr. Gillis and unanimouslyapproved.

b. 2020-2021 budgeted

- Ms. Gleeson reviewed the budget spreadsheet. We want to spend this money by the end of June. Expect to spend some of the Conference money on CLCC which will again be remote, and some on Community Events for Community Garden events. And we are having the survey at Robbie Road. Do we need any equipment such as a leaf blower or brush cutter? What about trail counters? Mr. Smith has 2 trail counters that might need the software to be purchased. Do we need more plants?
- Mr. Olin mentioned the need for the bridge at Roaring Brook. Should we purchase the lumber for that? There is a span of about 30'. Can we get planking and railing lumber now? Mr. Gillis, Mr. Delventhal and Mr. Olin will try to determine the need and cost estimate. Price of wood could be a concern, but they will try to find out. We could buy some in the new budget year.
- Mr. Olin mentioned he does masonry, and would we need to anchor bolts into masonry? Mr. Gillis will come up with a design.

c. State of CT Dept of Transportation DEEP State Project Permit
   - Ms. Gleeson said we were notified that work will be done to replace the bridge over Shady Brook which will be replace with a new 12-foot wide by 126 foot long precast concrete box. The work requires discharge of fill material including temporary discharge of temporary fills into abutting wetlands which will be removed in their entirety and restored to pre-construction contours and elevation upon completion of the project. EHCC was notified as a formality/FYI. This is located bottom of hill to the north of the MOC. This road will be closed while construction is going on. They want an easement of Town property while this work is being done.

d. Other
   - Mr. Gillis was thinking of pizza for lunch at the LeFebvre work party on Sunday.

7. Public Comment-none submitted
8. Next meeting – Tuesday, May 4, 2021, via Zoom or possibly in person (see discussion below).

9. Announcements and other discussion
   - Maps will be dropped off at Ms. Gelston's soon.
   - Mr. Delventhal asked about learning GPS. Ms. Gleeson said
   - Will we go back to in person meetings? Are people willing if the Town is open to them? Mr. Delventhal is ready. Mr. Olin is concerned about variants. Ms. Gleeson mentioned that other groups have been meeting in person and we are not large so could keep distance and not allow public attendance. Mr. Gillis is in favor of meeting in person. We will determine how people feel before the May meeting.
   - Ms. Gleeson suggested a future meeting with FOI. She attended a Gateway meeting and learned of the need to not conduct business on email, so we need to be careful about what we do that way. She might ask that we have an overview of what the FOI rules are. Mr. Olin asked if meeting to get maps or having stewardship was permissible? Ms. Gleeson said those were not meetings and we are OK.

10. Adjournment at 8:58 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Gleeson
Chair, East Haddam Conservation Commission