East Haddam Conservation Commission

May 4, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Adopted 6/1/2021

1) Call to Order – Roll Call
   a) The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held at the Municipal Office Building on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7:30 PM. The Chairperson being in the Chair.
   b) Roll Call at 7:32 PM. (Thom Delventhal, Bernie Gillis, Charlotte Gelston, Susan Pagnano, Gary Wilson, John Olin, Marilyn Gleeson)
2) Appointment of Alternates: No alternate appointments needed.
3) Approval of Agenda
   a) Approval of agenda as presented by Ms. Gelston; seconded by Mr. Delventhal.
   b) Agenda amended to add distribution of Mr. Olin's essay to item 9.
   c) Motion to approve the amended agenda made by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Ms. Pagnano. Motion unanimously approved.
4) Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 4/6/2021.
   a) Motion to approve the 4/6/2021 minutes as presented by Ms. Gelston; seconded by Mr. Delventhal.
   b) Changes/corrections to the minutes as follows:
      i) Section 5b Eightmile Wild & Scenic Committee: The Town needs to come up with $216,000.
      ii) Section 5 c Planting/existing garden updates: On March 27th, Mr. Wilson met with Ms. Kinsman…
      iii) Motion to approve the 4/6/2021 minutes as amended by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Mr. Wilson. Motion unanimously approved.
5) Old Business
   a) Subcommittee updates
      i) Stewardship & Forestry Management
         (1) At Lefebvre, had the work party with Mr. Delventhal, Mr. Olin, Ms. Kinsman and her son, Jennifer Glassman and Jesse White Frissee. Blew off trails, marked red and blue trails. Ms. Pagnano and Mr. Gillis returned a few days later and finished marking the red trail. There was also tagging of the white trail but there is a lot of water on the lower section of the property so it might not make sense to put in a trail there. A decision on this will be held off for now. Once the gravel is spread the kiosk will be installed in the parking lot. It will include some history. The blue trail that returns to the parking area goes onto Burnham Brook a little bit but we will leave it as is. The little foot bridge on the red trail needs work unless it could be just stones to cross the wet area. There is a small camp site near the stone wall that could have an historic marker. Mr. Delventhal will research. The connection of Lefebvre to Burnham will need to be discussed with TNC's Dave Gumbart.
         (2) At Chapman Pond, did some cleanup. Mr. Olin will check on the need for maps there.

(3) Blazed the red trail at Davison.
(4) The knotweed at Salmon River Overlook surrounds the pavilion. Ms. Pagnano suggested smothering it with contractors' cloth and woodchips. There is also some on the downward slope.
(5) Upgraded the Eightmile Wildlife Management Area kiosk. It is on Salem Road. The kiosk needs to be painted and Ms. Pagnano volunteered to take this on.
(6) Inherited two trail counters. Suggested we install them on Shugrue and Lena.
(7) We received an email from Mya Darrow who volunteered to be a Reserve Monitor. She is a Senior at NHRHS and walks all the EH trails. She will not select one property but will notify Mr. Gillis of issues she finds.

ii) Outreach & Promotion
(1) We need EH News articles. Mr. Delventhal is writing one on bats. Ms. Paganano and Ms. Gleeson plan one on composting. Ms. Gelston will write one on horseback riding on the trails. Mr. Olin has one that can be on land conservation.
(2) A water tank scavenger hunt for children will be done at the Community Garden later this year.
(3) Breast cancer awareness month is in October and we will tag short trails pink. Ms. Pagnano has a list of trails to use. We will ask people to find the trails and take pictures. They will get a prize or we will donate to a breast cancer charity. Ms. Gelston volunteered to knit pink cowls. We will advertise the event on the EH website and in EH News and distribute flyers around Town. We could also promote through the schools.
(4) We also still want to pursue an outdoor event with Lisa Wahle, perhaps in July or August. Mr. Delventhal will follow up with her.
(5) A good place to have events at the Community Garden is the space on the other side of the water tank. We could rope off the area to keep people away from the garden plots.

b) Liaison Reports
i) IWWC updates
(1) Mr. Delventhal was away so had nothing to report.
ii) P&Z updates
(1) The guest house for Mr. Chilton was approved.
(2) Nutmeg Pharmacy is going to increase the size of their building. They will expand the back.
(3) P&Z will begin discussing zoning changes in Moodus village for traffic calming.
(4) Goodspeed will be presenting a proposal to put up a tent in the parking lot for event.
iii) Open Space updates
(1) The group reviewed the Open Space Committee document on the O'Connell Road Extension property. There will be a series of approvals needed by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning and eventually a Town Meeting and Town Referendum, likely in July. Our support at the meeting as private citizens is fine.

(2) Read the materials, talk to your neighbors, get the vote out. We need to be somewhat neutral but the EH Land Trust will be promoting it. We can write articles about the value of open space. We discussed why we had to be neutral and Ms. Gleeson promised to find out why.

iv) Eightmile Committee updates
(1) Nothing to report.

c) Planting/existing garden updates
i) About 55 plants were planted at Patrell in the new area. We have an $80 credit due from CRCCD because we did not get Black-Eyed Susan. There is a concern about the need to keep the plants watered. We will have access to a 250 gallon tank but need a full sized truck to get it to Patrell and need to fill it. Could fill it with a pump from the pond. The plants were installed by Mr. Wilson, Ms. Kinsman, Mr. Olin and Nathanial Kinsman. Mr. Wilson put a stake and line and tape around the garden to ensure it was not mowed.
ii) Mr. Wilson will get mulch delivered to keep the grass down and help with the moisture retention.
iii) There is a possibility we could have a future area to store things at Public Works but nothing is available right now.
iv) We need to order plant labels that can be viewed by wheelchairs. Ms. Pagnano will take this on.
v) We still want to have a grand opening ceremony at Patrell for the ADA trail. Maybe at the end of the summer.
vi) Mr. Wilson will meet with the new Master Gardener (intern) to plant three swamp azaleas and five spice bush. We will also remove the black erosion control material.

6) New Business
a) New Bills-none
b) Other-nothing
7) Public Comment-no comments were submitted by the public.
8) Next meeting: Tuesday, June 1, 2021.
9) Announcements and other discussion
a) Mr. Olin distributed his essay on public space. There was a brief discussion about the history of common space, especially in this country, frontier experience and that of indigenous people. He is happy to get feedback. He shared this with EHLT also. He is thinking about creating a booklet concerning the history of open space in East Haddam which could be a permanent record for the Town.
10) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Ms. Gelston. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Marilyn Gleeson
Chair, East Haddam Conservation Commission