East Haddam Conservation Commission

June 1, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Adopted July 6, 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, June 1, 2021, at 7:30 PM. The Chairperson being in the Chair.
   b) Roll Call at 7:38 PM. (Thom Delventhal, Bernie Gillis, Charlotte Gelston, , John Olin, Marilyn Gleeson). Susan Pagnano and Gary Wilson were absent.
2) Appointment of Alternates: John Olin will represent Gary Wilson.
3) Approval of Agenda
   a) Approval of agenda as presented by Mr. Gillis; seconded by Mr. Delventhal.
   b) No changes to the agenda suggested.
   c) Approval of agenda by Mr. Gillis; seconded by Mr. Delventhal. Motion passed unanimously.
4) Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 5/4/2021.
   a) Motion to approve the 5/4/2021 minutes as presented by Ms. Gelston; seconded by Mr. Delventhal.
   b) Changes/corrections to the minutes as follows:
      i) Spelling on page 2, Jesse Frissee should be Frise.
      ii) Section 5 c vi: Change to "Mr. Wilson will meet with the new Master Gardener (intern) to plant three swamp azaleas and five spice bush."
   c) Motion to approve the 5/4/2021 minutes as amended by Mr. Gillis; seconded by Ms. Gelston. Motion passed unanimously.
5) Old Business
   a) Subcommittee updates
      i) Stewardship & Forestry Management
         (1) 5/8 Salmon River Overlook-Mr. Gillis trimmed the knotweed and tagged trails at Gelston CE
         (2) 5/11 Mr. Gillis retrieved one water tank from Town for Patrell. Mr. Wilson put it at Patrell
         (3) 5/14 Mr. Gillis removed 2 trees at Davison. He got an email that a tree was down on Goodwin Trail at Eightmile Wildlife Area.
         (4) 5/18 Mr. Gillis was at Roaring Brook Reserve for a tree down there. He picked up the 2nd water tank for Patrell with Mr. Wilson.
         (5) 5/19 Mr. Gillis and Mr. Wilson tried to fill both water tanks at Patrell. Hoses that were rented with the pump had holes in them, so they couldn't get the full benefit of hoses. They did get the tanks relatively full (one full and one ¾ full). It took several hours to do what they were able to do. Rain barrels won't work as not enough water will result. Discussed other types of pumps but it was the hoses that were the issue. Also discussed idea of purchasing a pump since we will need to do this every year. Decided to see how much water we need this year and see if it warrants purchasing a pump and hoses for the future.

(6) Mr. Wilson, Mr. Olin, Ms. Kinsman, Ms. Pagnano, and Ms. Bryson have arranged to take turns watering at Patrell.
(7) 5/24 Mr. Gillis went to the Gelston CE with Ms. Gillis. He passed out a hand drawn map of some trails. Ms. Gelston has neighbors who will assist with clearing. Ms. Gelston identified some wet spots and said when we are ready for a work party to let her know. There is a lot of poison ivy in an area that could be for parking. People could park along the road as they do now for fishing. There is also poison ivy along the red trail. We can try to cut it and smother it. Ms. Gelston explained the layout of the property and other areas for possible trails.
(8) Mr. Gillis mentioned another person interested in being a reserve monitor.
(9) Ms. Gleeson got an email from Shane Pochiodo interested in being a reserve monitor. Once she hears back from him, she will forward his information to Mr. Gillis.

ii) Outreach & Promotion
(1) We should start articles on our reserves with a map. Lena or Urbanik are good ideas. Ms. Gleeson volunteered to do one on Lena.
(2) Ms. Gelston's article on horseback riding was great.
(3) Mr. Delventhal is still working on the article on bats.
(4) We will do an article on Patrell/ADA trail in the future.
(5) Events Magazine article idea was possibly Patrell/ADA if the timing is right. Pollinator garden will be in bloom. Maybe we just do one on the gardens.
(6) Ms. Gleeson attended a UCONN Clear webinar. They are delivering a trail mapping tool for all CT trails. She will send out the link. The Maine version is very much like how the CT site will look. None of our trails will be on it initailly. Ms. Gleeson will send the GIS data for our trails to be added eventually. It will be a while before all of them are there because they have a backlog. The Chapel Farm trails GIS data is corrupt so needs to be re-mapped. Mr. Delventhal will learn how to do the mapping from Ms. Gleeson. The application allows you to follow yourself on the trail while you're walking on your phone, it has descriptions, etc. It will eventually have local businesses if you want to go out to eat, shop, etc.

b) Liaison Reports
i) IWWC updates
(1) Mr. Delventhal reported Getaway is moving quickly. They cleared their trees and are constructing roads. Most of their buildings are donated.
(2) Someone on O'Connell Road started building something where the shouldn't so that is being addressed.
(3) There is a fire pond near the Senior Center that is being cleaned to hold more water. It is on the corner of Falls Road and Great Hillwood.
(4) The owner of a small parcel next to Salmon River Overlook put up fence which is illegal; that is being addressed.

ii) P&Z updates
(1) There is a sub-committee discussing possible zoning changes for Moodus. Would cover from Post Office to old Cumberland Farms.

(2) Talked about old Brownell factory on Moodus River and possibility of that becoming usable.
(3) P&Z/EDC Sub-Committee is looking at Simsbury model for guidance on regulations to use.
(4) Whatever was decided would have to be in sync with the Plan of Conservation and Development.

iii) Open Space updates
(1) EHCC does not have to be neutral regarding the O'Connell Road Ext. property purchase. Only elected officials must be neutral regarding a referendum.
(2) We can promote people to vote yes when the referendum comes up.
(3) If someone is advocating for a public space/green area, such as behind the Gelston House which is owned by the Lions, is that within our purview? That is a Town Park and is not within our purview. It is managed by the Town Park and Rec, used for weddings, etc.

iv) Eightmile Committee updates
(1) Mr. Gillis is hoping to hear from TNC if they can use the Burnham Brook house as an office. Would be used by other entities as well.
(2) Mr. Gillis sits on Salmon River Watershed group. They hired a consultant to give direction to plan for next 5 years. They get $2-5K from each town in the watershed each year. Hope to be more sustainable and be designated as a Wild and Scenic River. It covers 10 towns. EHLT and Moodus Reservation Preservation Group will be participating in ZOOM meetings for ideas. EHCC supports this effort. They are looking to remove dams as well.
(3) There is a gorge on Powerhouse and Stockburger Roads. There are no trails there and the Town has no properties that we manage there.

c) Planting/existing garden updates
i) We obtained 5 more swamp azaleas which were planted by Mr. Thompson (MG Intern) and Mr. Wilson, and the erosion control fabric was removed. 7 black eyed Susan's were obtained by Mr. Wilson and planted by Ms. Bryson and Mr. Wilson. All were marked with fluorescent orange tape. Mr. Wilson will add 2 stakes to mark the black-eyed Susan.
ii) Two 250-gallon water containers were provided by the town and moved to Patrell by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Gillis rented a pump and filled both tanks although not where they preferred as the pump was not able to move the pond water up the slope; however, it should prove easier to collect the water to keep the plants irrigated, instead of pulling the water directly from the pond. The company they rented the pump from (Gano's in Colchester) refunded the rental fee as the pump did not perform as expected.
iii) Mr. Wilson checked the plants at Harris (2 chokecherries doing well), Lena (3 chokecherries doing well, 2 mulberry good with one struggling since snowplow covered it last winter), Hatch (3 chokecherries good, 3 mulberry are struggling but still viable), Urbanik (6 mulberry doing well), and Salmon River Overlook (6 mulberry and 12 chokecherries have survived the winter): however, they are crowded out

with mugwort and other invasive. Mr. Wilson would like to clear a 3–4-foot diameter around each to promote their growth.

iv) At SRO the Japanese knotweed is going on strong around the pavilion. Suggestion is to hack it down and brush Roundup on the stems, sooner rather than later.

v) Red osier dogwoods at Harris CC Nursery are all doing well. Mr. Wilson has been watering them 2-3 times a week.

vi) The knotweed around the pavilion at Salmon River Overlook is growing strong.

6) New Business
   a) New Bills-none
   b) Other-nothing
7) Public Comment-no comments were submitted by the public.
8) Next meeting: Tuesday, July 6, 2021. Mr. Olin will be away and unable to attend.
9) Announcements and other discussion:
   a) Budget referendum is June 8, 2021, at the MOC.
   b) Mr. Delventhal mentioned a July 20 referendum. That is a possible date for the O'Connell Road Ext.
10) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Gelston; seconded by Mr. Delventhal. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

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