East Haddam Conservation Commission

September 7, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Approved October 5, 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, September 7, 2021, at 7:30 PM. The Chairperson being in the Chair.
   b) Roll Call at 7:30 PM. Bernie Gillis, Marilyn Gleeson, Gary Wilson, Susan Pagnano, Charlotte Gelston and Thom Delventhal were present. John Olin arrived at 7:45 PM.
   c) Guest: Rob Smith.
2) Appointment of Alternates: No alternates were required to be appointed.
3) Approval of Agenda
   a) Approval of agenda as presented by Mr. Gillis; seconded by Mr. Delventhal.
   b) No changes to the agenda were required.
4) Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 7/6/2021.
   a) Motion to approve the 8/3/2021 minutes as presented by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Mr. Wilson.
   b) Changes/corrections to the minutes as follows:
      i) Section 5 a(3): Correction to spelling: Wendi MacNeil and change from group of children to group of high schoolers.
      ii) Section 5 a(6): Correction to spelling: Mr. Chappell.
      iii) Section 5 a(9): Correction to spelling: Wendi MacNeil.
      iv) Section 5 a(11): Correction to spelling: Gelston.
      v) Section 5 c(xi): Correction to spelling: year.
   c) Motion to approve the 8/3/2021 minutes as amended by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Ms. Pagnano. Motion passed with Ms. Gelston abstaining since she was absent at the last meeting.
5) Old Business
   a) Subcommittee updates
      i) Stewardship & Forestry Management
         1. 8/7/21 Mr. Gillis cleared a tree on the yellow trail at Patrell.
         2. 8/10/21 Mr. Gillis walked Lefebvre with Ms. Gleeson. They GPS'd the trails and he cleared some brush, etc. In anticipation of mapping the site, Mr. Smith and Ms. Gleeson flagged a trail to connect to Devil's Hopyard to the overlook. It will require a small bridge to go over the stream. Mr. Smith also flagged a different small route on the blue trail that will allow hikers to not have to go over the stone wall as he found a route that has an opening in the wall. Mr. Smith and Ms. Gleeson also walked the wetlands and think that would be a trail to possibly do in the future but would require going into Burnham Brook.
         3. 8/16/21 Mr. Gillis went to Hatch and cut large trees on blue trail. Mr. Olin, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Delventhal, and Mr. Gillis installed the Lefebvre kiosk.
         4. 8/29/21 Mr. Gillis went to Rose and cut trees down on the white and yellow trails.
         5. 9/9/21 Mr. Gillis went to Hatch and took care of trees on the blue and green trails.
         6. 9/??/21 Mr. Gillis went to Shugrue and Sabine with Ms. Pagnano. Started putting up pink tags.
         7. Ms. Gleeson distributed Urbanik history and Lefebvre brochure draft. Urbanik history comes from Julie Urbanik's blog. She gave permission to use the picture and information. Ms. Gleeson will try to get the name of the Eagle Scout who put in the Urbanik trail.
         8. We will start putting a 'street address' on brochures for our properties so people can use GPS.
         9. Map supply-We decided we need more Chapal maps.
         10. We will try to keep our kiosks located so people can view both sides.

11. Mr. Smith and Ms. Gleeson walked the Robbie Rd. trail. It was very wet and would be very expensive and difficult to put in a trail there. Since EHLT now has access on Southwinds it doesn't make sense to put something in there any more.

12. Ms. Gleeson reported that Mr. Gelston has some EHCC items in his shed that need to be retrieved. Mr. Gillis will get them. EHCC does need a place to store some of our equipment. The Patrell water tanks can go back to the Village garage.

ii) Outreach & Promotion

1. The next EH News article for "Conservation Conversation" will be on Urbanik Reserve. It will be done by Ms. Gleeson

2. RiverFest is 10/16. Need volunteers. Ms. Pagnano, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Olin and Ms. Gelston will try to be there.

b) Liaison Reports

i) IWWC updates

1. Mr. Delventhal reported about a Lake Hayward controversy which is regarding access to the beach but that was months old.
2. There was also supposed to be dredging of the ponds on Eightmile River and a field walk.
3. Moving to add 9 holes to disc golf.

ii) P&Z updates

1. Grist Mill Plaza subdivision review.
2. Banner Lodge/Black Birch is continuing their presentation at future meeting.
3. Site review for Nutmeg Pharmacy. It will have a drive-through window.

iii) Open Space updates

1. Ms. Gleeson submitted a letter on the O'Connell Road Ext. property to EH News which will be timed to be just prior to the referendum on 10/5. EHLT is also doing a flyer which will be distributed through the paper.

2. The referendum will ask approval for the full cost of the property even though there are numerous grants and donations, and the actual cost will be much less.

iv) Eightmile Committee updates

1. Mr. Gillis reported they are moving forward with RiverFest at Devil's Hopyard on October 16th. EHCC usually has a table at RiverFest and we will do so again.

2. They are looking to move into the Burnham Brook property along with EHLT, Lyme Land Trust, Audubon, TNC, and possibly Salem Land Trust.

c) Planting/existing garden updates

i) 9/7-Ms. Pagnano removed much of the Mountain Mint at Patrell and weeded pollinator garden.

ii) Mr. Wilson reported some of flowers have fallen due to rain but will leave them because they will only fall over again. All plants doing well. Has been using deer repellent.

iii) Mr. Wilson went to Harris with Brett and moved 12 red dogwoods from Harris to Urbanik. They are doing well. Will bring winter color. Have 12 left. Could go to Lefebvre wet areas. Also need sun. Parking area needs to be graded around edge. Mr. Wilson will meet with Mr. Delventhal to find a good location for the plants.

iv) Was there a house near the kiosk location? There was a barn near there.

v) We agreed to put future kiosks in locations where they can be viewed on both sides.

vi) Can we get a certification for Brett Thompson? Ms. Gleeson will prepare one.

vii) Mr. Wilson cleared an area around mulberries at Salmon River Overlook. Weeds are coming up through the wood in the pavilion. We will need to take care of that. He found a way to cut things down…3x3.

viii) We still did not get chips there but they will be coming.

6) New Business
   a) New Bills
      i) Shagbark-$45.64 for chains and chain oil. Motion to pay by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Ms. Gelston. Motion passed unanimously.
   b) Other: n/a
7) Public Comment-no comments were submitted by the public.
8) Next meeting: Tuesday, October 5, 2021.
9) Announcements and other discussion:
   a) Ms. Pagnano talked about Breast Cancer event. There will be 4 trails on our properties. We will not reveal the properties. They are tagged with pink tags, and each has a special symbol, heart, diamond, space, club. Put notice in EH News. Will be for month in October. Ms. Pagnano will send draft to Ms. Gleeson. When they find the trails, they send a photo of the symbols to ccchair email. Need to warn to wear bright clothing because of hunting. Do we give them a prize? Donate to breast cancer? Need to find out what we can do. What prizes? Hats/t-shirts? Do we donate to a breast cancer charity instead? Do we do a raffle?
   b) Ms. Gleeson reminded everyone that they need to vote on a new Chair at the next meeting. She will resign effective 10/31/2021.
   c) Mr. Wilson asked when the FOI workshop is being rescheduled. Probably end of September.
   d) Mr. Olin asked about bridge to be built at Roaring Brook. Materials should now be available at a reasonable cost for pressure treated wood. The bridge would not be made for horses as horses could ford the brook. We decided we should probably put signage on our bridges about horses.
10) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Mr. Wilson. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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