Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, Nov. 4, 2021

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

East Haddam Conservation Commission

November 4, 2021

1) Call to order - Roll call
   A) The regular meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held in the Municipal Office Building Room #2 on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021, at 7:35 pm. The Chairperson was in the Chair.
   B) Roll call at 7:35 pm - Bernie Gillis, Charlotte Gelston, Gary Wilson, John Olin, Susan Pagnano were present.
2) Appointment of alternate - None required.
3) Approval of Agenda
   A) Approval of agenda as presented by Ms. Gelston and seconded by Ms. Pagnano
   B) No changes to the agenda were required.
4) Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for Oct. 5, 2021 with the following changes
   A) Item 3a corrected Mr Delventhal"s name
   B) Item 5ai3 corrected spelling of Harris Preserve
   C) Item 5ai9 deleted as Mr Gillis did not recall what this was about
   D) Item 5aii3 deleted as Mr Wilson did not recall what this was about
   E) Item 5aii5 clarified that Ms Gleeson had prepared the article for the EH News once the Lefebvre kiosk is ready.
   F) Item 5aii9 was clarified regarding invasives growing within the grass area at Patrell Preserve.
   G) Item 5cvi was clarified regarding the treatment of the Helianthis sunflowers at Patrell
5) Old Business
   A) Subcommittee Updates
      1. Stewardship and Forestry Management - Mr. Gillis
         a) A new blue trail was put in at Lefebvre on Oct 10
         b) 2 new bollards were installed at Patrell on Oct 22
         c) New beams for the bridge at Roaring Brook were delivered today
         d) Trees were cleared from Sabine, and a new trail was scouted out which provides a reservoir view
         e) Blue and white trails were cleared at Harris.
         f) Mr. Gillis walked the Goodwin trail into East Hampton on Oct. 30 and cleared 6-7 trees.
      2. Outreach and promotion - Mr. Wilson
         a) Ms. Gelston will prepare an article for the EH News on donating a property easement to the town based on her personal experience.
         b) Ms. Pagnano reported that 7 people completed the breast cancer awareness scavenger hunt. She has the contact information and will coordinate the awards (including two handmade shawls made by Ms. Gelston, thank you Charlotte!), and the matching contributions to breast cancer research. Ms. Pagnano will also remove the pink tags along the trails that were included in the hunt, and develop an article for the EH News Conservation Conversation section.
         c) Mr. Olin discussed a position paper he had sent the Commission members regarding the scope of our mission and how we might get more involved in issues that could have worldwide impact. The Commission agreed that Mr. Olin should further research this, including the State statute and EH ordinance addressing the CC duties, and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

B) Liaison Reports

3. IWWC Updates - Mr. Delventhal was absent and so no report was provided
4. P&Z Updates - Mr Gillis
    a) The town closed on the 124 acre Milazzi property on Monday
    b) A notice of violation was sent to the lessee of the Shugrue property as they held an event without obtaining the proper permit from the town in violation of the lease.
5. Open space updates - Mr Delventhal was absent and so no report was provided
6. Eightmile Committee updates - Mr Gillis
    a) Mr Gillis reported a recent meeting of the committee discussed issues other towns were having with the Goodwin Trail.
    b) The Eightmile Committee will move into a new facility in East Haddam. The Audubon Society and Nature Conservancy are planning to share this facility as well.

C) Planting/Existing Garden Updates - Mr. Wilson/Ms. Pagnano

1. Mr. Wilson submitted a final report to the Master Gardner Association that provided a grant for the plants at the Patrell Preserve ADA trail (appended).

6) New Business

C) New Bills

1. Essex Printing bill for a laminated map of the Lefebvre property. A motion to pay the bill was presented by Ms Gelston, and seconded by Mr. Gillis, with unanimous approval.

D) Riverfest recap- Approximately 600 people attended this years Riverfest. The CC had a table which was attended by the former Chair, Ms. Gelston, Mr. Olin, and Mr. Gillis.

E) Membership discussion

1. Based in part from the work done by Commission members at the above Riverfest, we had the opportunity to meet 2 new candidates for the Commission. Charles Meyers and Tyler Meek attended the meeting, and both gave a short summary of their desire to join the Commission, and answered questions from the Commission members. They were asked to leave the room, and all members gave a unanimous endorsement to recommend both to the BOS for appointment to the Commission.

7) Public Comment - No comments were forthcoming

8) Next Meeting Tues Dec 7 7:30 pm in Municipal Building Room #1

9) Announcements/other discussion -

A) With the departure of the previous Chair from the Committee, a vacancy for a full committee member was open. The Committee voted to recommend Mr. Olin for the position to the BOS.

B) Mr Wilson requested all members to start tracking the time they spent on CC activities. He will provide small notebooks for each member to record the considerable amount of volunteer time they give to this Commission and our town.

10) Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm