Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, October 5, 2021

East Haddam Conservation Commission

October 5, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Approved 11/4/2021

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, October 5, 2021, at 7:37 PM. The Chairperson being in the Chair.
   b) Roll Call at 7:37 PM. Bernie Gillis, Marilyn Gleeson, Gary Wilson, Susan Pagnano, Charlotte Gelston John Olin, and Thom Delventhal were present.
2) Appointment of Alternates: No alternates were required to be appointed.
3) Approval of Agenda
   a) Approval of agenda as presented by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Ms. Gelston.
   b) No changes to the agenda were required.
4) Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 9/7/2021.
   a) Motion to approve the 9/7/2021 minutes as presented by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Ms. Pagnano.
   b) Changes/corrections to the minutes as follows:
      i) Section 5 ai)3.: added Mr. Delventhal.
      ii) Section 5 bi)2.: changed 'cleaning of the pond' to 'dredging of the ponds'
   c) Motion to approve the 8/3/2021 minutes as amended by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Mr. Gillis. Motion passed unanimously.
5) Old Business
   a) Subcommittee updates
      i) Stewardship & Forestry Management
         1. 9/8/21 Mr. Gillis went to Boot Rock and Pizzini and cleared some downed trees.
         2. 9/16/21 Mr. Gillis hiked the entire Dean trail with Mr. Olin and cleared that trail of a few trails.
         3. 9/17/21 Mr. Gillis went to Harris and cleared 3 trees. Also repainted the orange trail there.
         4. 9/26/21 Mr. Gillis went to Gelston's to retrieve materials.
         5. 9/27/21 Mr. Gillis replaced map holder at Chapman Pond. There is a new kiosk there.
         6. 9/28/21 Mr. Gillis Installed bollards at Patrell (2).
         7. 10/1/21 Mr. Gillis spent 2 hours on the phone with ECO regarding the issues with the chain saw battery. A new one will be sent. Email confirmed it will be shipped. It is under warranty.
         8. 10/3/21 Mr. Gillis and Mr. Olin were at Lefebvre put in orange trail at Lefebvre and looked at the new section of blue trail.
         9. Ms. Gleeson has the Urbanik history ready to be laminated.
         10. Ms. Gleeson has brochures ordered and Lefebvre brochures and laminated map and rules. Also has new map of all properties for RiverFest. She is preparing a tri-fold display for that event.
         11. We have a new Reserve Monitor request from Charles Myer. Waiting to hear if he wants to do more than Davison.
      ii) Outreach & Promotion
         1. The next Events Magazine article will be on Patrell ADA Path. We will have an opening ceremony on 10/23 with 10/24 as rain date. Will have donuts and cider and keep it small. Will invite Eightmile group and see if we can get some disabled people to attend. Ms. Pagnano will have the plant labels ready. We will also invite Dave Holahan and ask Norm Needleman to put it in his newsletter.
         2. The lines have been painted in the parking lot.
         3. RiverFest is 10/16. Rob Smith will help as will Ms. Pagnano and possibly Ms. Gelston.

4. When Lefebvre is ready with the kiosk, Ms. Gleeson has an EH News article ready about that reserve. Need new metal signs that are bent and with bullet holes. One needs to be nearer to the parking lot.
5. Pink trails article in EH News left off the hint. It is being reprinted.
6. Mr. Gillis won a Certificate of Appreciation from the Rockfall Foundation for stewardship. They will be doing a short film at Patrell. The award will be given on 11/7 at their annual meeting. Well deserved!
7. We discussed the need to keep the Patrell gardens in better shape because they are public. Also talked about Salmon River Overlook and the knotweed. Because we are so small, we must be sure we don't take too much on as we must be able to manage what we have. We need to plant some wildflowers so we may do a small area, 10' x 10'. We will ask Rob Smith to select the seed for the wildflowers.
8. Mr. Wilson wants to tackle the invasives. He also wants to let the grass grow and see the invasives that grow there, which can then be removed one at a time. We just need to ensure that the plants along the edge are maintained.
9. Ms. Gelston has more stakes that we can take.

b) Liaison Reports
   i) IWWC updates
      1. Mr. Delventhal reported there was nothing to report that concerns EHCC.
   ii) P&Z updates
      1. Black Birch delayed until next meeting.
      2. Nutmeg Pharmacy moving forward.
      3. Looking at home occupation regulations.
   iii) Open Space updates
      1. The Hayward Lot referendum passed 3 to 1 (703 yes/236 no)
   iv) Eightmile Committee updates
      1. RiverFest at Devil's Hopyard on October 16th.
      2. EHCC has a table. Ms. Pagnano will be there as will Mr. Olin. Ms. Gelston may be able to attend.
      3. Eightmile Committee will move to Burnham Brook house on Dolbia Hill. They will also be updating their website.

c) Planting/existing garden updates
   i) Ms. Pagnano working on signs on ADA trail. She hiked Shugrue and Harris to report trees down. Also weeding pollinator garden.
   ii) Mr. Wilson pulled all dogwood shrubs from Harris. Planted them at Urbanik and Hatch. Also put some at Patrell. Has 6 remaining. Thinking of 3 for Lefebvre.
   iii) Mr. Wilson purchased Sourwood and Pink Dogwood trees which were planted at Patrell ADA garden near Redbud tree. They have a 1-year guarantee.
   iv) Water tanks are empty and will be returned to Town garage.
   v) Will use more deer repellent after the ADA event.
   vi) For the sunflowers that fell over, we will wait until they die back and then trim and reset the roots. They will then set stronger roots to support next years growth.

6) New Business
   a) New Bills
      i) Shagbark-$146.71 for pressure treated lumber. Motion to pay by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Ms. Gelston. Motion passed unanimously.

ii) Garden Barn Nursery-$303.98 for two trees for Patrell to be paid to Mr. Wilson. Motion to pay by Ms. Gelston; seconded by Mr. Delventhal. Motion passed unanimously.

b) FOI Training-Ms. Gleeson, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Gillis attended. All thought it was helpful. The rules are not always clear cut but all agreed that Mr. Hennick gave a good presentation.

c) RiverFest-Already discussed under Eightmile Report.

d) New Chair Voting-Mr. Delventhal made a motion to nominate Mr. Wilson as the Chair of the EHCC effective 11/1/2021. Seconded by Ms. Gelston. Each member individually voted to accept Mr. Wilson's nomination. Ms. Gleeson abstained. The vote was unanimously approved.

i) Mr. Wilson said he would like Chair to be rotated every couple of years among other members.

ii) Ms. Gleeson mentioned that there is no one available to be Recording Secretary yet so she has offered to do that. She will not attend the meeting in person but will take the minutes from the YouTube videos. She will work with the new Chair on other duties regarding the agenda and distribution of agenda and minutes, etc.

iii) The Open Space liaison will be Mr. Delventhal, replacing Ms. Gleeson as of the November Open Space meeting.

iv) No other liaison changes were required at this time. Mr. Gillis will continue as the P&Z representative. Mr. Delventhal will continue as the IWWC liaison. Mr. Gillis will also continue as the Eightmile liaison.

v) We discussed the Chair responsibilities including the EHCC budget and reviewing bills and the budget.

vi) At the November meeting, Mr. Olin can be voted in as a regular member. Ms. Gelston and Mr. Gillis expressed an interest in continuing as members.

e) Other-Pink Trails-Ms. Gelston offered to knit 2 cowls as prizes. EH News is re-running the article as they left off the hint.

7) Public Comment-no comments were submitted by the public.

8) Next meeting: Thursday, November 4, 2021.

9) Announcements and other discussion:

a) Mr. Olin mentioned creating a butterfly garden at the Community Garden and possibly a greenhouse for them. Could be an educational opportunity for the future for EHCC.

b) Ms. Gleeson mentioned she was notified of a State Trail Grant opportunity. She provided the paper copy to Mr. Gillis and will forward it electronically to Mr. Wilson.

10) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Delventhal; seconded by Ms. Pagnano. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.

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