Town of East Haddam Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2021

1) Call to order - Roll call

A) The regular meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was convened in the Municipal Office Building Room #1 on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, at 7:34 pm. The Chairperson was in the Chair.

B) Roll call at 7:35 pm - Charlotte Gelston, Gary Wilson, John Olin, Thom Delventhal, Tyler Meek were present. Bernie Gillis was dialed into the meeting due to illness. Susan Pagnano was on vacation. Charlie Myers arrived a few minutes after the meeting was started.

2) Appointment of alternate - Mr. Meek was appointed to replace Ms. Pagnano.

3) Approval of Agenda

A) Approval of agenda as presented by Mr. Delventhal and seconded by Ms. Gelston.

B) No changes to the agenda were required.

4) Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for Nov. 4, 2021 with the following changes

A) 5A1b: 1 bollard was placed at Patrell by Mr. Gillis, not 2.

B) 5A1f: "East Hampton" was replaced by "Salem".

C) 5A2b: "shawls" was replaced by "cowls".

D) 5A2c: "position paper" was replaced by "letter to the Commission", and "worldwide" was replaced by impact "in East Haddam".

E) 6C1: "Meyers" was corrected to "Myers".

F) A motion was made by Mr. Delventhal to approve the minutes, and seconded by Ms. Gelston.

5) Old Business

A) Subcommittee Updates

1. Stewardship and Forestry Management - Mr. Gillis
    a) Lumber was delivered to Roaring Brook for the foot bridge on Nov. 5. Mr. Gillis and Mr. Olin moved it to the site on Nov. 6.
    b) Nov. 7, Mr. Gillis installed the map at Lefebvre, and cut the new blue trail.
    c) Nov. 8 some timbers for the bridge at Roaring Brook were cut
    d) Nov. 11 and 28th, 4 tie-downs on the pavilion at Salmon River Overlook were installed, as the pavilion is on the edge of a bluff overlooking the river and a strong wind could blow it off its gravel bed.
    e) Mr. Gillis met Wendy McNeil at Lena Preserve to set up a rock garden at the intersection of the blue and red trails. A Girl Scout Troop (ages 5-11) that was present expressed an interest in doing some work for the CC. Members should consider age appropriate work they could perform and send to Mr. Gillis.
    f) Nov. 21 several trees were cut up at Harris by Mr. Gillis
    g) Mr. Gillis expressed a desire to move the gate at Urbanik Preserve up the trail a bit to allow more parking space. It's very limited at Urbanik.
    h) Mr. Gillis is planning to meet with a neighbor who has offered to mow the trails at Gelston Easement 2 times a year.
2. Outreach and promotion- Mr. Wilson

a) Ms. Pagnano's article on the Breast cancer pink trails scavenger hunt was shared with the group. All agreed it was appropriate for submission to the E. Haddam News as a Conservation Conversations.

b) The Commission discussed future Conservation Conversation articles, to include write-ups on all the preserves. The town owns 12 preserves, and has 2 easements.

c) Mr Olin reported to the Commission in fulfillment of his charge at the November meeting to research the effects of environmental change on the Town, and look into the ordinances that might apply to a proposed subcommittee. He handed out a paper detailing the

results of his research entitled Research for proposed subcommittee on environmental change — December 7, 2021 . Mr Olin read this document. In it he proposed the establishment of an environmental change (or global warming) subcommittee. Mr Meek asked Mr Olin for an explanation of the specific POCD goals. Mr Olin said that he would answer Mr Meek's questions. For that reason, he said his article *Adapting to Change (*which the commissioners had previously received) should be submitted for publication after he had more information for the Commission. Mr. Delventhal expressed his disappointment that Mr Olin's article would not be published. Mr Wilson expressed the need for specific goals and objectives for the subcommittee. He read a comment from Ms. Pagnano which recommended that Mr Olin become a liaison with other local environmental groups. Mr Gillis spoke about various areas of our primary responsibilities touched on by the proposed subcommittee, and other environmental groups. He said we should focus on the local effects of climate change. A motion was passed for Mr Olin to continue his research.

B) Liaison Reports

2. IWWC Updates - Mr. Delventhal stated the recent meeting discussed adding solar panels and additions to homes. They also plan to do a tour of the Roaring Brook property where the footbridge is planned by the CC, on Dec 12. Mr. Delventhal plans to participate in the tour.
3. P&Z Updates - Mr Gillis
    a) P&Z renewed an application submitted for 282 Town St.
    b) The sale of the Saunders Property on Honey Hill Rd. to the Land Trust was supported by P&Z.
4. Open space updates - Mr Delventhal reported there was no meeting this month.
5. Eightmile Committee updates - Mr Gillis
    a) Mr Gillis reported the Eight Mile River Coordinating Committee, the Nature Conservancy, and the EH Land Trust will move into a new facility in East Haddam at Burnham Brook on Dolby Rd. The Audubon Society will not move at this time.

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

1. Mr. Wilson reported 3 red twig dogwoods were planted at both Harris and Lefebrve over the last month. The helianthus (sunflowers) that had fallen over were reset at Patrell. All plantings at Hatch, Lena, Harris, SRO, Urbanick, and Patrell were given a dose of Milorganite as deer repellant.

2. Regarding the chokecherry at SRO that had been cut down, Mr. Wilson called the head of the Town Works group and will plan to go out in the spring to the properties where we have planted natives, to be sure the people cutting the grass / weeds at the preserves know where they are. It's likely the weeds at SRO had grown higher than the metal stakes marking the plantings and so this mishap occurred purely by accident.

6) New Business

B) New Bills

1. Essex Printing bill for a laminated Conservation Commission poster ($20), and for 1800 trails maps of 11 preserves ($773.92). A motion to pay the bill was presented by Ms Gelston, and seconded by Mr. Delventhal, with unanimous approval.

2. Shagbark Lumber bill of $975.17 for lumber for the Roaring Brook footbridge. A motion to approve the bill was made by Mr. Delventhal and seconded by Mr. Olin, with unanimous approval.

3. Staples bill for $23.23 for notebooks for Commissioners and parchment paper for volunteer recognition. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Gelston and seconded by Mr. olin, with unanimous approval.

4. Mr. Gillis mentioned a bill from Gano's would be coming soon for the gas chainsaw he purchased for the Commissions use.

C) Membership discussion

1. One remaining slot for an alternate is open

2. One trail volunteer has come forward since the last meeting, Sharon Chaples, for Shugrue preserve. Discussion ensued on who was maintaining a list of identified volunteers and it appears no one is. Mr Wilson will check with the previous chair to see if she has a list.

7) Public Comment -

A. One comment had been sent to the CC chair prior to the meeting, by Mr. Harry Marotto, about who the contact for the Nature Conservancy was, as the writer had noticed some invasive bittersweet at Chapman Pond that he thought they would want to be aware of. Mr. Gillis identified David Gumbart as that person. This will be conveyed to Mr. Marotto.

8) Next Meeting Tues Jan. 4 at 7:00 pm in Municipal Building Room #1 **(note time change!)**

9) Announcements/other discussion -

A. Mr Wilson reported that the Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mr. Thompson, a 2021 Master Gardner intern, who had assisted in planting natives over the past year at Patrell and Urbanik preserves.

B. Mr. Gillis questioned if the history of Urbanik had been prepared into a laminate for posting at the preserve. Mr. Wilson will check with the prior chair.

10) Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Wilson, Chair
East Haddam Conservation Commission