East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 5, 2022
Municipal Office Building Room #1

1. Call to order – called to order at 7:01
   In attendance: Gary Wilson, Charlotte Gelston, Charlie Myers, John Olin, Joe Sina, Thom Delventhal and Bernie Gillis

   Absent: Susan Pagnano

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary)
   Charlotte Gelston is appointed to vote for Susan Pagnano

3. Welcome to new CC members and guests
   Rob Smith– to discuss the completion of the bridge over the Eight Mile River
   Cameron Beard attending as a guest

4. Approval of agenda
   Motion to approve the Agenda: Charlotte Gelson, Second: Charlie Myers. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

   A short discussion ensued by Rob Smith, an audience member, regarding the completion of the bridge over the Eight Mile River. The construction was never completed. Rob put together an estimate to complete the job which totals $600. The east abutment $300, $200 for the apron (Public Works to install the apron) and $100 for concrete. He has all the materials. Picnic table to be included in the southeast corner.

   Motion to approve the completion of the bridge over the Eight Mile River: Charlie Myers, Second: Thom Delventhal. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes June 7, 2022

   Second Page; Section 6. Old Business, a. Subcommittee updates, fourth paragraph: *"A short discussion ensued regarding Robbie Road and Monica's Woods. Mr. Sina spoke*

with Mr. Ventres…" should read "*A short discussion ensued regarding Robbie Road and Monica's Woods. Mr. Gillis spoke with Mr. Ventres…*"

Third Page, Section 6. Old Business, a. Subcommitte update, third paragraph: *"June 3, 2022 and June 6, 2022 – Mr. Gillis and Mr. Wilson went out to Lefebvre as two of the Reserve Monitors, Mr. and Mrs. Charbonneau, had reported to Ms. Gelston that a large tree had fallen. Tree was cleared and the trail walked and no other issues.*" Should read, "*June 3, 2022 and June 6, 2022 – Mr. Gillis and Mr. Wilson went out to Lefebvre as two of the neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Charbonneau, had reported to Ms. Gelston that a large tree had fallen. Tree was cleared and the trail walked and no other issues.*

Third Page; Section 6. Old Business, a. Subcommittee updated, fifth paragraph: "*May 28, 2022 – Mr. Gillis, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Olin went to the Town Beach to cut a trail in for Connor that passed in the car accident. Some classmates also helped.*
June 4, 2022 – Returned to the Town Beach and Janis Sina's wife also helped with the trail for Connor. Blazed the trails and finished this project. Marked with paint and installed the chair that Connor's father built at the overlook. There is a spot on Mott Lane to park one car but there is easy access to the trail from the Town Beach. Connor's father offered to make another bench and it was Mr. Wilson's suggestion to place where Connor's family and friends would like it to go if in fact another is made and donated." Should read, "*May 28, 2022 – Mr. Gillis, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Sina and Janice Sina went to the Town Beach to cut a trail in for Connor who passed in a car accident. Some classmates also helped.*
June 4, 2022 – Returned to the Town Beach and Mr. Gillis and Mr. Sina helped with the trail for Connor. Blazed the trails and finished this project. Marked with paint and installed the chair that Connor's father built at the overlook. There is a spot on Mott Lane to park one car but there is easy access to the trail from the Town Beach. Connor's father offered to make another bench and it was Mr. Wilson's suggestion to place where Connor's family and friends would like it to go if in fact another is made and donated."

Fourth Page; iii. Climate resilience, first paragraph, second sentence: "*There have been discussions regarding the evasive species and mosquitos."* Should read, *"There have been discussions regarding the invasive species and mosquitos."*

Fourth Page, iii. Climate resilience, third paragraph, fifth sentence: *"A discussion ensues on how to property format the document."* Should say, *"A discussion ensues on how to properly format the document.*"

Seventh Page; d. Reserve Monitor Discussion, Paragraph two: "*Mr. Wilson also suggests contacting Claudia at the Department of Children and Families, and provide her with the tasks of a preserve monitor, to see is she may has some suggestions.*" Should read "Mr. Wilson also suggests contacting Claudia at the Department of Children and Families, and provide her with the tasks of a reserve monitor, to see if she may have some suggestions to get more young people involved.

Motion to approve Minutes: Thom Delventhal, Second: John Olin. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Olin needs to leave early from meeting. Moving iii. Climate resilience up.

Motion to change the order of business: Bernie Gillis, Second: Thom Delventhal. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

6. Old Business

   a. Subcommittee updates

      iii. Mr. Olin begins a discussion regarding the new document and describes the changes and additions made. A short discussion ensues regarding suggestion as to amendments to be made. Mr. Olin will make the changes and send to Mr. Ventres.

Motion to approve the document with the changes discussed: Joe Sina, Second: Thom Delventhal. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

      i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis (10 min)
      June 11, 2022 – Mr. Gillis went to Rob's and cleaned out most of wood and is now being stored at his house.
      June 14, 2022 – Mr. Gillis went out to investigate a television that was in the woods reported by the Land Trust.
      June 16, 2022 – Mr. Gillis and Mr. Olin returned to remove the television that was in the woods.
      June 18, 2022 – had work party at Robbie Road/Monica's Woods with the Land Trust and finished the work by putting in the white trail, putting up signs and cutting back some trees.

      Short discussion ensued regarding the Land Trust not allowing mountain bikes on their property. There is a possibility in the future that mountain bikes will be allowed at the Robbie Road/Monica's Woods property.

      A discussion ensued regarding if horses will be allowed on the trail. The issue with horses is the bridges could hold people, but they wouldn't hold a horse. A decision was made to put up a sign on both ends of the trail that indicates that the trail is prohibited for horses. Land Trust is also in agreement to not allow horses at Monica's Woods property

      June 20, 2022 – Mr. Gillis and Mr. Wilson went out to Patrell and brush hogged the perimeter of the field and trimmed around the shrubs.

June 25, 2022 – Mr. Gillis returned to Patrell after receiving an email from a woman from the Eight Mile River Group that the Yellow Trail was in disrepair with lots of trees down.
June 27, 2022 – Mr. Gillis and his wife went to Shugrue after receiving an email from Denise Brown that four trees were down on the Red and Blue Trail.
June 28, 2022 – Mr. Gillis put the extension on the bridge at Roaring Brook.
June 29, 2022 – Mr. Gillis went to the Gelston Property to spread cardboard and woodchips.
July 1, 2022 – Mr. Gillis went out to Nehantic State Forest on the Goodwin Trail with Rob to begin to build a bog bridge.

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson (10 min)
Mr. Wilson submitted the article that Mr. Delventhal wrote along with two photographs with the hopes that it will all make it into the Events Magazine. Mr. Wilson asked that it be entitled "A Walk of Remembrance."

A short discussion ensued regarding the walk and Mr. Gillis indicates that he needs to order signs. He would like to get two blue signs, one for the Town Beach and one for Mott Lane. There was also a discussion as to where the signs and kiosk should be placed. There was an agreement that the kiosk would be placed on Mott Lane and the name of the property will be called Town Beach Preserve. There will also be a sign placed with information on Connor, perhaps a laminate of the EH News article.

Short conversation ensued regarding what will be allowed on the trail and what will be prohibited.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC updates – Mr. Delventhal (5 minutes)
No updates
ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis (5 minutes)
Approved 3 lot subdivision
iii. Open Space updates – Mr. Delventhal (5 minutes)
No updates
iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Gillis (5 minutes)
As reported, the building of the bog bridge. In addition, there is a Birds of Prey program coming to Devil's Hopyard pavilion this coming Saturday from 10:00 to 11:00 and being put on by a Place Called Hope.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson (5 minutes)
i. Mr. Wilson reports that the elderberries are doing fine. Never got them over to the Harris Reserve. He is taking care of them at home and will notify the

Commission when he is going to plant them, which will most likely be in the fall.

ii. Everything at Patrell is doing great along the ADA Trail.

d. Reserve Monitor discussion, Ms. Gelston – the tree that was down was taken care of last month. There hasn't been anything else recently.

Mr. Wilson questions if Ms. Gelston ever heard back from Wyatt and she advises that she did not. She said that she email him and provided information regarding being the Monitor. Mr. Wilson has his phone number and will reach out to him between now and the next meeting to see if he is interested in being added to the list as well as Connor's parents. Mr. Wilson does not have their contact information and will check with Wyatt.

A conversation ensues regarding the construction of the swing bridge and the documents that were provided by the State. The State was looking for any questions or comments. Ms. Gelson did have a question for the State regarding the exhaust build up from all the vehicles idling, as well as wasting fuel and additional mileage on vehicles due to the closures of the bridge.

A short discussion ensued regarding the temporary floating bridge. The only issue might be ice. The discussion continues to the economic impact that it will have on the businesses on either side of the river. Mr. Wilson would like to review what Ms. Gelston wrote and possibly make a few changes focusing on the environmental aspects, and forward the suggestions to the State of Connecticut. Ms. Gelston will update based on discussions and return to Mr. Wilson for submission.

7. New Business

a. New bills (10 minutes)

Bill received from Mr. Gillis from Shagbark for $19.99 for 15 D galvanized nails.

Bill received for Lexann for materials for 3 kiosks from Mr. Gillis for $268.51.

Motion to approve payment of the bill: Thom Delventhal, Second: Charlotte Gelson. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

8. Public comment (can be submitted via email to: ccchair@easthaddam.org)
Mr. Wilson reports that he did not get any public comments via email.

9. Next meeting: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., Room #1

10. Announcements and other discussion (5 minutes)

Cameron, an audience member, begins a discussion regarding having a single map for the four preserves as they are continuous. He questions if this is done, how should it be presented. It could be titled Moodus Forest. If this done, it is suggested that it be a joint management between the Conservation Commission and the Land Trust. A short discussion ensued regarding these ideas. A decision was made to name this area Moodus Forest. A kiosk will also be built for the maps.

Motion to approve the Moodus Forest Brochure: Charlie Myers, Second: Bernie Gillis. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

A discussion ensued regarding drones on if they would be prohibited or not and if this might be something that would need to be discussed in the future.

b. Adjournment at 8:30

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Delventhal, Second: Mr. Sina. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lenice Tripputi, Recording Secretary
East Haddam Conservation Commission