East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 2, 2022
Municipal Office Building Room #1

1. Call to order – called to order at 7:03

In attendance: Gary Wilson, Charlie Myers, Thom Delventhal and Bernie Gillis

Absent: Charlotte Gelston, John Olin, Joe Sina and Susan Pagnano

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary)

3. Welcome to new CC members and guests

Cameron Beard attending as a guest

4. Approval of agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda: Charlie Meyer, Second: Thom Delventhal. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes July 5, 2022

First Page; Section 4 "A short discussion ensued by Rob, an audience member…" should read "A short discussion ensued by Rob Smith, an audience member…"

Second Page; First Paragraph; Minutes - "…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…" should read "…"June 3, 2022 and June 6, 2022 – Mr. Gillis and Mr. Wilson went out to Lefebvre as two of the neighbors, Dave and Tammy Charbonneau, Reserve Monitors…"

Second Page; Third Paragraph; Minutes – "…Should read, "May 28, 2022 – Mr. Gillis, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Olin, Mr. Sina and his wife went to the Town Beach to cut a trail in for Connor that passed in the car accident. Some classmates also helped." Should read, "Should read, "May 28, 2022 – Mr. Gillis, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Sina and his wife went to the

Town Beach to cut a trail in for Connor that passed in the car accident. Some classmates also helped."

6. Old Business

    a. Subcommittee updates

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

i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis (10 min)

July 8, 2022 - Mr. Gillis and Mr. Sina attended an event at Devil's Hopyard put on by the Eightmile called Birds of Prey by A Place Called Hope.
July 10, 2022 and July 11, 2022 – Mr. Gillis and Mr. Griggs went to Nehantic State Forest with Mr. Smith and worked on the Goodwin Trail bog bridge. It is now finished.
July 13, 2022 – Mr. Gillis built a kiosk.
July 19, 2022 – Mr. Gillis went to the Gelston property with Mr. Sina for three hours to mow the blue trail and part of the red trail.
July 23, 2022 – Per Mr. Beard's invitation, Mr. Gillis went to Tom Worthley's home in Haddam and received a demonstration on Forestry Management.
July 25, 2022 – Mr. Gillis went out to Lefebvre and built an 8 foot bridge on the red trail. There was an old bridge in the area and he removed it and rebuilt it.
July 29, 2022 – Mr. Gillis, Mr. Beard and Mr. Wilson installed the kiosk at Robbie Road.
July 30, 2022 – Mr. Gillis and some volunteers from Salem went out to Eightmile River Wildlife Management area and cut brush on the Goodwin Trail.

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson (10 min)

Mr. Wilson begins a discussion with confirming that Mr. Gillis forwarded information on the Goodspeed Airport Festival on August 27, 2022. Mr. Wilson completed the application and sent in the check. He reports that he was advised that even if you are a non-profit, payment is still required for a table. There was a request that CC table be placed near Eight Mile and Land Trust tables.

Mr. Wilson ensues a short discussion regarding what should be placed on the table for the show. He suggests a couple pictures of the Town Beach property, a map showing the East Haddam open space and a collection of trail brochures. All agreed.

Short discussion ensued regarding having additional maps printed. Mr. Wilson will follow-up on the printing. A suggestion was also made for having a banner printed.

A short discussion ensued regarding who will work the table and it will be split between Mr. Wilson, Mr. Gillis and Mr. Myers.

iii. Climate resilience – Mr. Olin (10 min) – Mr. Olin is not in attendance to discuss the topic.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC updates – Mr. Delventhal (5 minutes)

No updates – Mr. Gillis is appointed as a proxy and will report as Mr. Delventhal will not be available.

ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis (5 minutes)

The Regulations have been completed and passed regarding Cannabis. Applications can now be submitted.

There is an application pending submission to the State for the acquisition of 95 acres of open space on North Moodus Road.

iii. Open Space updates – Mr. Delventhal (5 minutes)

New property – the Town will be holding a referendum to see if the residence will approve a 5-million-dollar bond for open space.

iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Gillis (5 minutes)

The move-in happened and they are in the office 3 days a week. A short discussion ensued regarding who is in the building and who was hired. Mr. Gillis also reports that the work on the bridge at Strong's Brook is coming along.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson (5 minutes)

Mr. Wilson reports that he was down at the Patrell property watering, and everything is dry due to the drought. He suggests that a water pump should be purchased for the purpose of watering. Short discussion ensued regarding this. Mr. Wilson also advised that a donation of woodchips has been made. This will help keep the moisture in for the plantings.

Mr. Wilson reports that he was not able to get the elderberry plants to the Harris property. They are at his house, and he has been watering them.

Mr. Ventres' office contacted Mr. Wilson and was advised that a resident just moved down from Maine and brought 40 hazelnut trees. These are also being held at Mr. Wilson's property and being taken care of until a decision has been made on where to put them.

d. Reserve Monitor discussion, Ms. Gelston (5 min) – Ms. Gelston is not in attendance to discuss the topic.

7. New Business

a. New bills (10 minutes)

Bill received from Mr. Wilson for vendor registration for the Goodspeed Airport Festival for $50.00.

Bill received from Mr. Gillis from Shagbark for $82.09, for a battery, 4 chip brushes, a handy pail liner and Tite bond glue.

Motion to approve payment of the bills: Mr. Delventhal, Second: Mr. Gillis. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

b. CC review of new properties being considered under Open Space and EHLT

Mr. Wilson passed out a document regarding the Open Space off North Moodus Road. It is approximately 95 acres. A discussion ensues regarding same. A grant is being submitted to the State for funds regarding this and it is due September 30, 2022. A letter of recommendation has been requested. Mr. Delventhal describes the property, and a review of the map was done by all parties at the meeting.

Motion to approve sending a letter of recommendation: Mr. Gillis, Second: Mr. Myers. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Wilson would like to walk the property and asked if Mr. Delventhal would go as he knows most about this property. Mr. Delventhal agreed but also advised that Susan Kinsman also walked the property and might be interested walking with him.

Cameron Beard, an audience member, begins a discussion regarding the Land Trust's interest in property on Honey Hill Road. He also indicates that the application is due to the State by September 30, 2022. He provides information on the property that is currently called Honey Hill Farm.

Motion to approve sending a letter of recommendation: Mr. Gillis, Second: Mr. Myers. Brought to vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Beard begins a short discussion regarding a piece of Stihl equipment that was recently purchased.

8. Public comment (can be submitted via email to: ccchair@easthaddam.org)
Mr. Wilson reports that he did get one public comment from David Carbo regarding the Dean easement. He reports that it has been discovered in the middle of July that the farmer has cut a new road on the backside of the farm, exiting onto the main trail on Parker Road.

A short discussion ensued regarding the protocol that would need to be followed regarding logging. To check on what is contained in the easement, someone would need to go to the Land Use Office.

9. Next meeting: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., Room #1

10. Announcements and other discussion (5 minutes)
The Board of Selectman's has approved the change for Ms. Gelston from full member to alternate member, Mr. Myers to full member and Mr. Delventhal and Mr. Olin have been reappointed.

11. Adjournment at 8:04

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

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