East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2022
Municipal Office Building Room #1
Adopted December 6, 2022

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

   Absent: John Olin, and Susan Pagnano.

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary). Mr. Sina was appointed alternate.

3. Welcome to new CC members and guests
   Guests: Cameron Beard.

4. Approval of agenda
   Motion to approve the agenda
   Sina/Myers Passed Unanimously

5. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes October 4, 2022
   Motion to approve the minutes with corrections to clerical errors.
   Gillis/Sina Passed Unanimously

6. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates

Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis

1. Signs from Davidson Display were purchased for Hayward, Roaring Brook Reserve, Zeleznicky, and the Patrell Preserve.
2. Remembrance poster, photos and fact sheet was installed at the Town Beach.
3. Directional post was installed at the intersection of the yellow and white trail at Rose Farm.
4. Roaring Brook red and blue trail was cleared.
5. Fact sheet and trail guidelines were installed at Robbie Road kiosk.
6. Directional post was carved and installed on the red trail "Y" area at Roaring Brook Reserve. A post has been carved for the blue trail needing to be installed.
7. Per Mr. Ventres, Swamp Yankee (surveyor) has started working at the Hayward property.
8. Patrell Preserve: Most of the mulch has been removed from the parking lot. There is a small tree down on the trail needing removal. Mr. Wilson suggested leaf blowing the handicap access area

Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson

1. Eight participants have sent symbols from the Pink Ribbon trails.
2. There was a Breast Cancer Awareness challenge hike in October.
3. East Haddam News published the Conservation Commission's article for dealing with weather extremes.

Climate Resilience – Mr. Wilson reported for Mr. Olin

Mr. Wilson shared a conversation with Greg Daigle. Mr. Daigle had shared that the Salmon River near his property (Powerhouse Road) may be being diverted due to sediment issues. Mr. Gillis and Mr. Myers will visit Mr. Daigle to investigate.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC updates – Mr. Delventhal had nothing new to report. He shared there would be a field walk at the East Haddam Fish and Game Club.

ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis- Coldspring Farms public hearing for special exception review for accessory use to the farm was well attended by the public. He stated there were many people in attendance against the special exception being approved. Mr. Gillis stated last year the farm sponsored a bike rally with over 400 attendees that camped on the property. The public hearing was continued until the next meeting. Moodus Auto wants to construct a building next to the shop. The building would house discarded library books which would be stored until sent in a container to Africa for educational purposes. Allowing campgrounds in the residential zones will be included in draft campground regulations and will be reviewed at the next meeting. Final approval would require a public hearing.

iii. Open Space updates – Mr. Delventhal – Meeting was postponed. Waiting for the State to respond to Mr. Ventres's grant application.

iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Gillis- The Eightmile Committee approved a $7,100 grant for the Landtrust for the purchase of a survey for the Saunders property. Letters of support were sent for the purchase of both the Kronenberg and Magnano properties. The Eightmile Committee is offering Educational Grants which can be found on the website. Mr. Sina shared he had attended the vernal pool hike adding developers should be required to provide a vernal pool written report as a part of the approval process by the town. Mr. Sina has discussed with a Middle School teacher providing educational experiences through the Eightmile Committee. Mr. Wilson suggested applying for the Eightmile Committee's grant to have a wildlife survey on one of the properties. Mr. Sina will investigate wildlife survey ideas for the next meeting. Commission Members discussed adding more history/wildlife information about properties on the kiosks. Mr. Sina reviewed his research on adding QR Codes. Interactive QR codes cost $5.00 a month, non-interactive ones which just go to a website are free. Mr. Sina noted it could cut the printing costs. Mr. Myers suggested the Commission subscribe to Instagram or Facebook page where hikers could share their experiences on the trails and will provide more information at the next meeting.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson

Five hazelnut plants were planted at the Patrell Preserve. 30-35 potted plants will be wintered over and planted in the spring.

d. Reserve Monitor discussion -Ms. Gelston –Nothing new to report.

e. Breast Cancer Awareness Challenge – Ms. Pagnano-Nothing new to report.

7. New Business

a. New bills

I. Shagbark for (3) 5/8-inch ledger lock screws, (2) each pressure treated posts 4x4x8 and 4x4x10 in the amount of $138.59. This was for a directional post and material for a kiosk.

Motion to approve the bills.
Myers/Delventhal Passed unanimously

b. New applicant to CC, Cameron Beard

Motion to recommend to the Board of Selectman to approve Mr. Beard to become an alternate member of the Conservation Commission.
Myers/Sina Passed unanimously

8. Public Comment (can be submitted via email to: ccchair@easthaddam.org) - none

9. Next Meeting Tuesday December 6, 2022, 7:00 pm, Room #1

10. Announcements and other discussion

- Mr. Wilson will work with Mr. Gillis to help identify a new kiosk location for Parker Road.
- Davison Walking Trail: Mr. Myers stated specific requests from Ms. Davison upon donation to the town are in Ms. Davison's will. He would like to put one of Ms. Davison's poems on the kiosk. Mr. Myers will try to find Ms. Davison's documents regarding the property.
- Instagram, Facebook and QR codes as outreach and promotion were discussed.
- Mr. Olin had shared with Mr. Wilson that Rick Roy near the Hayward Reserve is concerned about hunting on the property near his house. Mr. Ventres has been contacted and has reviewed the safety zone with permitted hunters. Two permits are issued per season (shot gun, archery, and black powder) per property.
- There was 232 ½ hours of volunteer time for the third quarter.
- The Environmental Protection Agency has invited the Commission to help develop up to 15 geographic response strategies for the Connecticut river in Connecticut from the Massachusetts Connecticut border south to where Interstate 95 crosses the river in Old Lyme. It is for GPS, map-based oil spill response strategies tailored to protect specific sensitive areas and longer river reaches from impacts following a spill. The Salmon River and Chapman Pond have been identified. Mr. Delventhal is interested in attending the January meeting. Mr. Wilson will forward the email information to Commission Members.
- Mr. Beard gave a box of information that he received from Rob Smith to the Commission.
- Mr. Beard said leaves were slippery on bridges and he would be clearing them on trails.

11. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:18 p.m.
Delventhal/Sina Passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary