East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
Municipal Office Building Room #1
Adopted January 3, 2023

1. Call to order – Called to order at 7:00 p.m.
   In attendance: Gary Wilson, Charlotte Gelston, Bernie Gillis, Susan Pagnano, Joe Sina, Cameron Beard, and John Olin (7:50 p.m. to 7:58p.m. via phone).

   Absent: Charlie Myers and Thom Delventhal.

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary). Mrs. Gelston was appointed alternate.

3. Welcome to new CC members and guests
   Guests:

4. Approval of agenda
   Motion to approve the agenda with the following additions:
   -Change Minute Approval date to November 1, 2022.
   - Announcements add "Pink Trail".
   -Announcements add "2023 Goals".
   Gelston/Gillis Passed Unanimously

5. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes November 1, 2022
   Motion to approve the minutes as presented.
   Sina/Pagnano Passed Unanimously

6. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates

   i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis

   -Patrell Preserve - Leaves were removed at handicap access and cut 5 trees.
   -Roaring Brook - Directional post was installed at the blue trail.
   -Urbanic Reserve - Removed trees from trails.
   -Hatch Lot - Red, white and green trail walked.
   -Rose Farm - Repaired data sheet on the kiosk.
   -Silas Homes Trail - Repaired data sheet on the kiosk.
   -Harris - Cleared trees at orange trail.
   -Dean Property - Established a kiosk location.

-Lord Wellington Property - Parking lot has been installed.
-Sabine - Red and white trail were hiked and there are a lot of trees down. Orange and white directional post need to be reset.
-Harris - Replaced maps.

ii. Plans for Lord Wellington and Dean Easement parcels

Lord Wellington Property-Newberry Road
Commission members reviewed site plans and aerial shots of the Lord Wellington Property. They decided to mark pins/boundaries for an anticipated survey.

Commission members reviewed a map illustrating the contiguous properties: Dean Easement Parcel (town owned), Sprecher Property (town owned) and Oldfield (Landtrust). There was discussion about making the connection and developing the Sprecher property. Mr. Gillis stated there needed to be a kiosk down at the end of Parker Road. Parking is limited and needs further investigation. The joint project with the EH Land Trust only involves connecting the Sprecher property with the Old Field land trust property.

iii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson

-East Haddam News - Ms. Pagnano will write an article about the Breast Cancer Awareness Scavenger Hunt.
-Events Magazine - Commission Members discussed ideas and decided to write about the Lower Connecticut Land Trust 19 Town Trail Challenge.
-Future article/public outreach - Protecting yourself when hiking from bear and coyote attacks.

iv. Climate Resilience –Mr. Olin

Mr. Olin reported on a joint CIRCA/River Cog meeting he and Mr. Gillis attended in March. He said they had conducted a vulnerability flooding assessment in East Haddam determining Succor Brook as having a high flood potential. Mr. Sina questioned how Succor Brook had been chosen and when the stakeholders would be involved in the planning process. Mr. Olin replied it was determined by the vulnerability study. Mr. Olin stated stakeholders would be involved when there was sufficient reason by the state to offer the town assistance in coping with those threats. Mr. Olin stated no decisions had been made. The Board of Selectmen and Planning Commissions would be the involved stakeholders. Mr. Wilson asked when property owners would have an opportunity to give input in the planning process. Mr. Olin replied before a decision is made to move to phase three study. Mr. Olin stated CIRCA was committed to community engagement. Responsive to a question by Mr. Sina, Mr. Olin replied he would research his role as Climate Resilience Liaison with the First Selectwoman and Mr. Ventres.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC updates – Mr. Delventhal. Reported by Mr. Wilson. The IWWC has been reviewing home improvement projects such as new decks and additions. The IWWC did a site walk at the Fish and Game Club because they want to dredge 7 or 8 of their ponds to make them more fishable. Mr.

Gillis stated this could be an issue because it is in the Eight Mile Watershed area requiring Army Corps permits and National Parks approval.

ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis- Coldspring Farms public hearing for special exception review for accessory use to the farm has faced opposition from the Lake Hayward Association for expanding uses for the farm. The Commission is in their decision-making process with the review.

iii. Open Space updates – Mr. Delventhal – Reported by Mr. Wilson. Nothing new to report.

iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Gillis- Review the new website online where grant opportunities may be found.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson
Hazelnut plants are being wintered over and will be planted in the spring.

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

7. New Business

a. New bills- none.

Commission Members discussed organizations for a yearly donation. Mr. Wilson will review the CC budget and donation history. The following organizations were considered:
-Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)
-Wild Ones associated with Connecticut College Arboretum
-Sierra Club

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

9. Next Meeting Tuesday January 3, 2023, 7:00 pm, Room #1

Mr. Wilson submitted the Annual Meeting Schedule to the Town Clerk. July 5th and November 7th are near holidays/election day and can be changed if necessary.

10. Announcements and other discussion

- Mr. Wilson sent a letter to DEEP requesting information on handling the problem of black bears in our community. He is waiting for a response.
-A query was sent asking to put a geocache at Roaring Brook. Commission Members agreed provided it is close to the trail.

Pink Trails

Ms. Pagnano said there were 10 qualifiers for the Breast Awareness Pink Trails Challenge. Shirts are being purchased for the qualifiers. An invoice will be presented for payment at a future meeting. All ribbons have been removed. Ms. Pagnano suggested providing the challenge on 3 instead of 4 trails next year to help encourage more participants.

2023 Goals

Mr. Sina shared that the Eightmile River Website offers $50-$300 grants for educational events. Commission Members decided to use the funding to sponsor a specialist to talk about protecting yourself if you encounter a bear or coyote while hiking on a trail.

Mr. Beard shared the Landtrust will be sponsoring a seminar on Forest Management next year.

11. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:31 p.m.
Gelston/Pagnano Passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary