East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2023
Municipal Office Building Room #1
Adopted February 7, 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 (Zoom), Cameron Beard, Thom Deventhal (Zoom).

   Absent: Charlie Myers and John Olin.

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 as presented.
   Gelston/Gillis Passed Unanimously

5. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes December 6, 2022
   Motion to approve the minutes with the following correction:
   -Spelling/clerical errors.
   Pagnano/Deventhal Passed Unanimously

6. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates
   i, Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis

-Lord Wellington Property – Marked Newberry Road with steel posts.
-Roaring Brook Reserve – Removed trees from blue trail and cleaned power lines with weedwhacker and loppers. Cleared trees across parking lot (after storm).
-Dean Easement – Enlarged parking lot at the north entrance. Entrance along north wall/orange trail was cleared. Mr. Gillis suggested replacing the small map area with a kiosk.
-Sprecher- Hiked. The 25 feet of the north entrance to Dean is part of the Sprecher property. A refrigerator, window frame and doghouse need to be removed from the property.
-Rose Farm Reserve – Yellow, red, and white trails were walked.
-Hatch Lot Reserve – Cleared limbs from parking lot (after storm).
-Lefebvre Reserve – Removed trees from red and blue trails. Stream crossings need bog bridges.
-Harris Reserve – Per conversations with First Selectwoman Haines, trees need to be removed and a bog bridge should be installed.

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson

-East Haddam News - Ms. Pagnano's article about the Breast Cancer Awareness Scavenger Hunt was published.

-Events Magazine - Lower Connecticut Land Trust 19 Town Trail Challenge has been submitted.

-Future article/public outreach – Educational article about easements- Mrs. Gelston

-Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise State Parks will be hosting their 2nd annual Spring Fling on March 19th.

iii. Climate Resilience –Mr. Olin. Reported by Mr. Gillis.

Nothing new with the Town Climate Resilience plan.

1. Connecticut River GRS plan?

-There will be a Zoom meeting on January 23rd

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC updates – Mr. Delventhal. There is a new Director of Public Works – Michele Valez. Three of the agenda items involved town property and will be continued at the next meeting. A new residential home and an addition were approved.

ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis- Coldspring Farm's public hearing for special exception review for accessory use to the farm decision will be voted on at the next meeting.

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

iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Gillis- No meeting last month. Will be meeting this month.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson

Hazelnut plants are being wintered over and will be planted in the spring. Planting locations were discussed.

d. Reserve Monitor discussion -Ms. Gelston

Trees down at Patrell Preserve, Sabine Reserve and Harris Reserve.

7. New Business

a. New bills

-Essex Design for 4 aluminum signs in the amount of $386.00

Motion to approve bills as presented.

Pagnano/Gelston Passed unanimously.

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

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

10. Announcements and other discussion

a. Budget input for coming year

Motion to contribute $250 to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.

Gillis/Sina Passed unanimously.

Motion to purchase a brush trimmer $500-$1,000.

Gelston/Pagnano Passed unanimously.

Mr. Beard discussed the benefits of developing connector trails at the Lefebvre Reserve and Burnham Brook Preserve. He reviewed a draft proposal for the Nature Conservancy.

Commission members will get quotes for a gazebo at the Patrell Preserve near the pollinator garden.

Mr. Wilson informed the Commission that there was a fund transfer line item containing $15,500 from the sale of cut trees from the frisbee park in 2012, which was forwarded each year and not used. Mr. Wilson has spoken to Todd Gelston-BOF and First Selectwoman Haines about using the funds. Suggestions: gravel for parking lots or proposed gazebo at the Patrell Preserve.

Future budget expenditures:
-$3,000 for educational workshops and printing documents for the protection of watersheds in East Haddam, responsible uses of water during times of drought, and improved preparedness in extreme weather events.
-Lumber for bog bridges.
-Tables for public outreach to put maps on.
-Benches for long trails.

Mr. Sina contacted Pat Young of Eightmile River about presenters for a lecture on hiking safety when you run into animals. She suggested a field walk format, potentially with Rob Smith. He also contacted Paul Coburn-DEEP who could tailor a presentation on living with CT wildlife. Location and date to be determined for Paul's talk.

Mr. Beard suggested warning people not to walk in the woods on windy days due to dead limb hazards and adding this information to kiosks.

11. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:41 p.m.
Pagnano/Gillis Passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary