East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
Municipal Office Building Room #1
Adopted March 7, 2023

1. Call to order – Called to order at 7:01 p.m.
   In attendance: Gary Wilson, Bernie Gillis, Susan Pagnano, Joe Sina, Cameron Beard, Thom Delventhal, and John Olin.

   Absent: Charlotte Gelston and Charlie Myers.

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary).

3. Approval of agenda
   Motion to approve the agenda with the following additions:
   -add Approval of Minutes date to "January 3, 2023".
   -add under Climate Resilience, "Nature Conservancy Community Building Workshop".
   Sina/Delventhal Passed Unanimously

4. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes January 3, 2023.
   Motion to approve the minutes with the following correction:
   -Item 6, under Sprecher, change to "The 25 feet of the north entrance to Dean is part of the Sprecher property".
   Delventhal/Pagnano Passed Unanimously

5. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates

   i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis
   Many trails were walked, and hazardous/fallen trees were cleared. Mr. Gillis stated the Hayward perimeter had been walked and suggested marking the property on Earth Day which is April 22nd. A bog bridge was built over one of the wet areas (lower/blue trail) at the Lefebvre Reserve. The Nature Conservancy is removing trees at the Chapman Pond Preserve. Boundaries were marked at Lord Wellington; steel pins need to be set.

   ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson
   -East Haddam News – Stay Safe on East Haddam Trails was published.
   -Events Magazine - Lower Connecticut Land Trust 19 Town Trail Challenge was published.
   -Next Events Magazine-Future article about safety precautions when taking dogs out on trails.

1. Plans for DEEP presentation – Mr. Sina

Paul Coburn from DEEP will provide a presentation about living with CT wildlife on May 1st, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Office Building Meeting Room #1.

Motion to approve a $100.00 honorarium to pay Wildlife Specialist Paul Coburn's May 1st presentation.
Gillis/Olin Passed unanimously.

iii. Climate Resilience –Mr. Olin.

1. Connecticut River GRS plans (Geographic Response Strategy)

Mr. Olin shared the meeting he attended on January 23rd about preparing for oil spills. There is a Zoom meeting scheduled in March.

2. Update on CIRCA plans for East Haddam

Mr. Olin shared the meeting he attended at River Cog communicated with David Murphy about adaptation and resilience opportunity areas.

3. CLCC Affordable Housing Seminar Debrief

Mr. Olin shared the CLCC Affordable Housing Seminar he attended on February 1st. Next CLCC meeting is scheduled for March 25th.

Motion to pay Mr. Olin the fee of $30.00 for attending the Affordable Housing Seminar.
Sina/Delventhal Passed Unanimously

4. Nature Conservancy Community Building Workshop

Mr. Olin shared a meeting he had with First Selectwoman Haines about providing a Zoom workshop for 8 – 12 community members (Emergency Responders, Planning and Zoning, Board of Education, etc.) in March to discuss preparing to respond for an extreme climate event.

Mr. Olin stated that the East Haddam Sustainability Committee would like to have a joint meeting.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC updates – Mr. Delventhal. No meeting last month. Nothing new to report.
ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis- Cold Spring Farm's public hearing for special exception review for accessory use to the farm was approved. The Bike Event was excluded in the approval.
iii. Open Space updates – Mr. Delventhal –Nothing new to report.
iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Gillis- No meeting last month. Nothing new to report. Mr. Gillis, Mr. Beard and Rob Smith will be attending a chain saw safety class.

Mr. Cameron suggested joining trails between the Zeleznicky and Burnham Brook properties. Mr. Cameron will prepare a map showing the connections between the two properties.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson -Nothing new to report.

d. Reserve Monitor discussion -Ms. Gelston-Mr. Wilson stated there was nothing new to report.

Mr. Gillis and Mr. Delventhal will attend the 2023 Land Conservation Conference on March 25th at Wesleyan University.

6. New Business

a. New bills

-$182.30 to STM Embroidery for Cancer Awareness Shirts
-$ 60.24 to Susan Pagnano for postage to mail Cancer Awareness Shirts
Motion to approve bills as presented.
Sina/Gillis Passed unanimously.

-$103.74 Invoice dated 1/20/2023 to Shagbark Lumber for wood for a bog bridge.
Motion to approve the bill as presented.
Delventhal/Pagnano Passed unanimously.

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

8. Next Meeting Tuesday March 7, 2023, 7:00 pm, Room #1

9. Announcements and other discussion

a. Input for Sustainable CT -Managing Woodlands

Mr. Wilson stated the Forestry Advisory Committee had been charged to the Conservation Commission. The Commission discussed developing a forestry management plan and possibly hiring a Forester. Mr. Olin shared discussions with First Selectwoman Haines for a 10-year resiliency strategy.

"Caution Trees Fallen" signs will be printed and posted at kiosks/trails.

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:31 p.m.
Sina/Delventhal Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary