East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Municipal Office Building Room #1
Adopted May 2, 2023

1. Call to order – Called to order at 7:00 p.m.
   In attendance: Gary Wilson, Joe Sina, Cameron Beard, Thom Delventhal, John Olin, Bernie Gillis, Susan Pagnano, Charlotte Gelston, Ben Prince-Eagle Scout, Jim Prince and Alan Ponanski (arrived @7:45 p.m.)

   Absent:

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary).

3. Approval of agenda
   Motion to approve the agenda.
   Olin/Pagnano Passed Unanimously

4. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes March 7, 2023.
   Motion to approve the minutes with the following correction:
   -page 2, under b. Liaison Reports, IWWC strike last sentence and replace with "The access road at Chapman Pond is being redirected with berms to avoid wet areas. Streams are also being redirected in the East Haddam Colchester Turnpike area."
   Olin/Gillis Passed Unanimously

5. New Business (a) – Ben Prince, Eagle Scout Candidate
   Ben presented a proposal for building a nature trail at the Hayward property.
   Commission members suggested the following:
   -Kiosk with QR codes for points of interest.
   -Work would be coordinated with commission members.
   -Possible bog bridge.
   -Benches.
   - Ben will develop a new nature trail plan to be presented at a future meeting.

6. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates
   i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis
   -Many trails were walked, hazardous/fallen trees were cleared.
   -Trails were weed wacked as needed.
   -The Machimoodus Spring Fling was attended by commission members on March 19th.
   -Members attended chainsaw training at Burnham Brook.

-Lake Hayward Preserve was tagged for the Eagle Scout project.
-Kiosk was installed at the Dean Easement.
-Directional post was installed where the blue and red trails meet at the Lefebvre property.
-A purple trail has been added to the Gelston property. Mrs. Gelston noted the purple trail needed a bog bridge for pedestrian traffic.

Mr. Wilson informed the commission that the Town's Insurance Agent is having the risk management group comment on the town's liability if warning signs alerting people to dead trees were to be installed.

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson
-Events Magazine-Chainsaw training at Burnham Brook was published.
-Mr. Sina shared a flyer advertising a presentation by Paul Coburn from DEEP about living with CT wildlife on May 1st, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Office Building Meeting Room #1. He asked people to take a few to advertise around town. He added he would be advertising on Facebook and it will appear in the East Haddam News calendar.
-Mr. Gillis reported a bear was seen at the Sabine property.
-Mr. Olin will be publishing an article about climate resilience in the East Haddam News.

iii. Climate Resilience –Mr. Olin
-There will be a community resilience building workshop program through the Nature Conservancy held on April 25th. It will include about 25 community leaders. The public comment workshop will be sponsored by the municipality including the Land Use Administrator, First Selectman and Commission. There was a brief discussion about the workshop and climate resilience.
-Mr. Wilson, Mr. Olin and Mr. Ponanski reviewed the CIRCA meeting they attended in March.
-Mr. Olin stated he was the liaison with the Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group.

b. Liaison Reports
i. IWWC updates – Mr. Delventhal reviewed the Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission (CACIWC) meeting he attended and said he was considering becoming an alternate member. Mr. Delventhal stated they would be dropping the water level of the Moodus Reservoir by 2 feet for an Eversource gas pipeline work. It will be coordinated with work on the East Haddam Colchester Turnpike causeway (guard rails two feet closer to the lake). Anticipated start date August.
ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis- Nothing new to report.
iii. Open Space updates – Mr. Delventhal –Nothing new to report.
iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Gillis- Nothing new to report.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson -Waiting to see how many hazelnuts have survived winter for transplanting.

d. Reserve Monitor Discussion -Ms. Gelston-New birdhouse locations were discussed.

7. New Business
a. New bills
-$170.14 for portable utility camping folding tables.
Motion to approve the bill as presented.

Sina/Gillis Passed unanimously.

-$157.62 to Shagbark for supplies.
Motion to approve the bill as presented.
Gillis/Pagnano Passed unanimously.

8. Public Comment (can be submitted via email to: ccchair@easthaddam.org)

9. Next Meeting Tuesday May 2, 2023, 7:00 pm, Room #1

10. Announcements and other discussion
Mr. Beard suggested purchasing Avenza software. He stated the software would allow for marking trails, finding pins and would save the town money in surveying fees. The benefits of the software were discussed.

Motion to approve $144.90 to Mr. Gillis to purchase Avenza Software.
Sina/Pagnano Passed unanimously.

Roger Stroud (Machimoodus Cartoonist) contacted Mr. Wilson saying he would like to donate his services to draw figures/cartoons for Conservation Commission events/logo.

11. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:44 p.m.
Pagnano/Delventhal Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary