East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2023
Municipal Office Building Room #1
Adopted July 5, 2023

1. Call to order – Called to order at 7:00 p.m.
   In attendance: Gary Wilson, Joe Sina, Cameron Beard, Bernie Gillis, John Olin, Charlotte Gelston (arrived 7:06 p.m.), Alan Ponanski, Roger Straub (departed 7:45 p.m.), and Ruth Ziobron (YouTube).

   Absent: Thom Delventhal, Susan Pagnano.

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary)-Mr. Beard was appointed until Mrs. Gelston arrived.
3. Welcome to guests and new members. -Welcome Alan Ponanski new CC applicant and Roger Straub, Mac O'Moodus creator.

4. Approval of agenda
   Motion to move 10b. Discussion with Mac O'moodus Creator Roger Straub before Old Business.
   Gillis/Olin Passed Unanimously

5. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes May 2, 2023 with the following changes:
   Motion
   -page 2, under Climate Resilience, change to "Mr. Wilson shared attendance of the Nature Conservancy's resilience building workshop on April 25th.
   -page 3, item 8, add "None was received".
   Gillis/Olin Passed Unanimously

6. Discussion with Mac O'Moodus creator Roger Straub
   Mr. Straub reviewed Mac O'Moodus's history and a portfolio of work. He offered the use of Mac as an Ambassador to the Conservation Commission. Mac is well known, has a fan base and is a nature loving character. Ideas were discussed. Mr. Straub asked Commission Members to go to the Red Shed Studios website to review the gallery and the Mac on the move on the navigation menu. Commission members discussed Mr. Straub's proposal at the end of the meeting and no decisions were made. Mr. Wilson will review with First Selectmen Haines.

7. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates

   i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis

   -Many trails were walked, markers painted, weed whacked and hazardous/fallen trees were cleared.
   - Lord Wellington and Sprecher parcel trails were marked.
   -Rose Farm new maps were created and added to the kiosks.

-Mrs. Gelston brought trail maps for Commission Members.
-Nichols Field and Sabine trail have fallen trees on trails needing removal.
-A work party will go to Urbanic to remove trees/saplings near the dam.

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson
- Article will be written about turtles for publication in the East Haddam News.

iii. Climate Resilience –Mr. Olin
-Mr. Olin shared attendance of the Nature Conservancy's resilience building workshop on April 25th and reviewed the summary of findings. Mr. Olin proposed printing the report for distribution.

Motion to approve funding for printing the summary of findings report in an amount not to exceed $300.00.

Sina/Gillis Passed unanimously.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC Updates-Mr. Wilson reviewed an email from Mr. Delventhal with updates.
-Accessory dwelling approval on Mount Parnassus was approved.
- Dock, shed, beach and plantings on Fall Road were continued to the next meeting.
-Waiting for additional plans from the EH Fish and Game.
-Field walk is scheduled for a septic repair on Smith Road (Bashan Lake frontage)
-Hopyard Road re-directed stream is continued.
-East Shore Drive culvert replacement is continued.
-Newberry Road an existing Fire Pond will be dredged. Road sand is the culprit. No permit is necessary for this.
-East Shore/Lakeshore subdivision. The Environmental Consultant advised environment is currently more stressed now than it will be after their careful planning. 75% of the land will be committed to Open Space including a 7.3 acre parcel with lake frontage (on the north side of lake shore) so a bit swampy, but still a very attractive parcel for trails. They appreciated the input of the Conservation Commission--esp. the suggested plantings from Chair, Gary Wilson.
-Questions answered by Mr. Wilson by Mr. Ventres:
Q. Who will own the 36 acres of open space?
A. These will be deeded to the town.
Q. Will the homeowners be permitted to cut down trees in the open space?
A. No, this refers only to their own property. They can't do this in the open space deeded to the town.

ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis- Nothing new to report.
iii. Open Space updates – Mr. Delventhal –No report provided. Mr. Gillis stated a grant for the Kronberg property had been awarded (requires town approval).
iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Gillis- Nothing new to report.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson -A frost may have killed the hazelnuts. TBD. Not many native grasses planted at Patrel survived winter.
d. Reserve Monitor Discussion -Ms. Gelston-Nothing new to report.

8. New Business
   a. New bills

   Motion to approve the bills as presented:

-$40.77 to Shagbark for supplies.	Sina/Gelston
-$291.00 to Essex printing.	Olin/Gelston
-$ 84.00 to Essex printing	Olin/Gelston
	Passed unanimously.

9. Public Comment (can be submitted via email to: ccchair@easthaddam.org) -None was received.

10. Next Meeting TBD because of holiday in July. Next meeting will be July 5, 2023 at 7 p.m.

11. Announcements and other discussion
    a. New CC applicant Alan Ponanski

Mr. Ponanski was introduced, and his membership discussed.

Motion to forward the nomination of Mr. Ponanski as a Conservation Commission alternate member to the Board of Selectman.
Olin/Gillis Passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:51 p.m.
Olin/Gillis Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary