East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 1, 2023
Municipal Office Building Room #1

1. Call to order – Called to order at 7:00 p.m.
   In attendance: Gary Wilson, Joe Sina, Bernie Gillis, John Olin, Alan Ponanski, and Ruth Ziobron.

   Absent: Cameron Beard, Charlotte Gelston, Thom Delventhal, and Susan Pagnano.

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary). Mr. Ponanski was appointed voting member.

3. Welcome to guests and new members.

4. Approval of agenda
   Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
   Sina/Olin Passed Unanimously

5. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes July 5, 2023.
   Motion to approve the meeting minutes**.**
   Olin/Sina Passed Unanimously

6. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates

i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis

- Lord Wellington kiosk and directional post at trail intersection was installed. Maps are pending.
-IPark- Boardwalk fixed. There will be a trail day this month.
-Commission members discussed taking stewardship of the Nichols Field trails. First Selectman Haines agrees with the CC to maintain the trails. Trail markings need refreshing and maps need to be created/printed.
-Davidson Trail-area near picnic tables need the grass mowed and weed-wacked. Mr. Wilson will inform the Lions, who maintain it.
-Salmon River Overlook-Fields need mowing.
-Urbanic- Trees near dam need to be removed.

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson

-Mr. Delventhal submitted an article in the Event's Magazine about controlling your dogs on a leash when hiking trails.
-Mr. Sina and Ms. Pagnano's article about how to live with wildlife will be in a future East Haddam News issue.
-Commission will plan a Stewardship Work Party in September. Possibly at Lefebvre to plant the hazelnuts. Date to be determined.

-Ben Prince, Eagle Scout candidate will be installing the kiosk during Labor Day weekend.

iii. Climate Resilience –Mr. Olin

-There will be a Community Educational Meeting at the Grange on September 17th at 3 p.m.
-Mr. Olin will publish an article in the EH news titled Conservation Conversations.
-Mr. Olin updated the commission on the Summary of Findings/priorities from the Resilience Workshop follow-up meeting on July 17th. Further details will be shared at the next meeting.
-CIRCA meeting. Portland, East Haddam and Essex have been chosen for remediation due to extreme weather due to their regional town assets. Mr. Olin will provide more details at the next meeting.
-Mr. Olin shared a copy of the Summary of Findings Report.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC Updates- Mr. Delventhal – Nothing new to report.
ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis
-Lake Hayward subdivision will continue at the next meeting.
iii. Open Space updates-Mr. Delventhal-Mr. Wilson reviewed for Mr. Delventhal.
-Current focus is to get authorization for bonding for future purchases.
iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Gillis
-Ungird map is being developed.
-Grant writer is available to East Haddam.
-Another Chain Saw course on fallen trees will be offered September/October.
-Riverfest will be held October 14th at Devil's Hopyard.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson
-9 pots of milkweed seeds have been planted for use in the Patrell pollinator garden.
-Mr. Wilson also has several native potentilla and summer sweet plants to be planted this fall at the Patrell pollinator garden.
d. Reserve Monitor Discussion -Ms. Gelston-Nothing new to report.

7. New Business

a. New bills

Motion to approve the bill(s) as presented:
-$69.78 to Shagbark for supplies.
Sina/Ponanski Passed unanimously.

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

10. Next Meeting Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 pm, Room #1.

11. Announcements and other discussion
-Mr. Wilson reported that he received a message from Don Young who works for Asplundh, that they would be spraying the Eversource lines. Mr. Wilson reviewed Mr. Young's email. This will take place during dry weather, 25-35ft away from vernal pools and away from vernal pools.

-At the next meeting, members desiring to be Chair will give brief speeches. The Chair Election will take place during the October meeting.
-Mr. Beard had shared with Mr. Gillis that someone is interested in planting apple trees using ½ to 1 acre of open space. Commission members agreed that the person should make the request at a future meeting.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 7:49 p.m.
Olin/Beard Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary