East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 5, 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, Charlotte Gelston, Cameron Beard, Bob Haglund and Ruth Ziobron via YouTube.

   Absent: Thom Delventhal, and Susan Pagnano.

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary). Mr. Ponanski and Mrs. Gelston were appointed voting members.

3. Welcome to guests and new members. Bob Haglund for apple tree discussion.

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

5. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes August 1, 2023.
   Motion to approve the meeting minutes**.**
   -Under 6iii, Climate Resilience, remove "Portland" and replace with "Cromwell".
   Ponanski/Gillis Passed Unanimously

   Apple Tree Discussion by Bob Haglund.
   Mr. Haglund reviewed a proposal for planting apple trees on a Conservation Commission property. Commission Members discussed potential properties: Harris, Salmon River Overlook, Sprecker, Patrell. A decision will be made at a future meeting. Board of Selectman approval is required.

6. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates

i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis

- Many trails were cleared of trees/limbs and weed wacked.
-Lord Wellington maps were printed and replenished. Mr. Wilson volunteered to keep the maps filled at the kiosk.
-Harris property was bush hogged.
-Lena's blue trail was mowed.
-Mr. Gillis stated the Town was behind maintaining some of the properties. He recommended commission members regularly mow some properties.
-Blue and red trails were mapped at Nichols. The white trail, which bypasses the fields, will likely be discontinued. Mr. Wilson shared the map with Lisa Conroy and is waiting for her comments. A kiosk

with maps will be installed. There was discussion about whose responsibility it was to maintain the fields near the disk golf course. Commission Members were invited to attend the Park and Recreation meetings which are held the first Monday of the month at which time maintenance of the disk golf course and fields could be discussed. There are dangerous trees around the disc golf course needing to be removed.
-Ben Prince is painting the kiosk and preparing it for the new trails at the Hayward property as a part of his Eagle scout candidate project.
-Rose Farm boardwalk before the bridge is starting to float in a few places and needs to be repaired.
-Sprecher has a person driving a four-wheeler through the property and creating unauthorized trails. A tree was purposely cut to block them, but the tree was then cleared by the operator of the four-wheeler. The Land Use Administrator was notified of the situation and is working on a solution. Commission Members discussed taking the issue to the next level by involving the police and posting signs.

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson
-Article about the Conservation Commission holding a stewardship Saturday on September 23rd at 72 Jones Hill Road from 10am to 12pm. The goal is to clear the invasive plants near the parking area and replace them with native shrubs.
- The Commission will have an informational table set up for the Riverfest on October 14th 1pm-4pm.
-An article will be written for the Events Magazine due date September 21st.

iii. Climate Resilience –Mr. Olin
-Succor Brook project. Statement of intent was sent to Circa. Cromwell, East Haddam and Essex have been chosen for remediation. A contract will be signed for a study for remediation due to flooding issues.
-There will be a Community Educational Meeting at the Grange on September 17th at 3 p.m.
-Mr. Olin updated the commission on the Summary of Findings/priorities from the Resilience Workshop follow-up meeting on July 17th. They will meet again in a few months.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC Updates- Mr. Delventhal was not in attendance and provided no updates.
ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis
-Lake Hayward subdivision was approved, and 36 acres will be put into conservation.
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
-Ungrid map is being developed.
-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
- There will be a stewardship Saturday on September 23rd at 72 Jones Hill Road from 10am to 12pm. The goal is to clear the invasive plants near the parking area and replace them with native shrubs.
-Mr. Wilson has 3 native potentilla, 3 black-eyed susan and summer sweet plants to be planted this fall at the Patrell pollinator garden.

d. Reserve Monitor Discussion -Ms. Gelston
-Gelston easement has lots of branches and briarwood needing to be cleared from the trails.

b. New Business

i. New bills

Motion to approve the bill(s) as presented:
-$105.00 to Essex Printing for reserve maps and the Lord Wellington Reserve laminated map.
- $23.07 to Shagbark for supplies.
Gelston/Gillis Passed unanimously.

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

10. Next Meeting Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 pm, Room #1.

11. Announcements and other discussion
-DEEP has informed Mr. Wilson that the three pesticide/herbicides being used by Asplundh for spraying the Eversource lines were currently registered with the State and okay to be used.

Discussion of next Chair
-Mr. Olin and Mr. Sina gave brief presentations on why they would like to be the Chairman of the Conservation Commission. Voting will be held during the next scheduled meeting.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:41 p.m.
Olin/Gelston Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary