East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Municipal Office Building Room #1

1. Call to order – Called to order at 7:03 p.m.
   In attendance: Joe Sina, Gary Wilson, Bernie Gillis, Charlotte Gelston, Cameron Beard, Alan Ponanski (left 7:30 p.m.) and Ruth Ziobron.

   Absent: Susan Pagnano, John Olin, and Thom Delventhal.

   Mr. Delventhal has resigned from the Commission. Mr. Beard will be recommended to the Board of Selectman as a regular member.

   Mr. Wilson, Ms. Pagnano, and Mr. Gillis agreed to a new 2-year appointment by the Board of Selectman.

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

3. Welcome to guests and new members.

4. Approval of agenda
   Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
   Gillis/Wilson Passed Unanimously

5. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes October 3, 2023.
   Motion to approve the meeting minutes**.**
   -Mr. Beard was absent.
   -Correct spelling/grammatical errors.
   -Under 7a "New Bills" remove "display" and replace with "mapping."
   Ponanski/Beard Abstained
   Sina/Gillis Passed Unanimously

6. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates

   i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis

- Trails were cleared of trees/limbs and weed wacked.
-The Goodwin Trail Event was well attended.
-Urbanik-red and blue trails were remarked.
-Harris-Orange trail was remarked.
-Nichols-CC members attended a meeting with the Parks and Rec Commission to review trail maintenance. Kiosks and maps will be installed. Potential new kiosk locations on the transfer station

road and/or Trowbridge Road was discussed. It was decided to install a regular sized kiosk on the transfer station road because it would get the highest visibility and a smaller kiosk on Trowbridge Road.
- Mr. Sina and Mr. Wilson complimented the Hayward Preserve trail work completed by the Boy Scouts. More blaze work may be necessary. Commission members discussed added signage closer to the road.
-Mr. Gillis suggested developing an extensive map showing the whole town for events, promotions, Municipal Office display and publication. He suggested the Master Map also include Open Space, State properties and Land Trust properties.

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson
-Riverfest on October 14th was well attended.
-Nichols Trails article and Climate Resiliency article was published in the Events Magazine.
-Future article ideas: Donating an easement to the CC. Difference between Land Trust and Conservation Commission and their duties and introduce new preserves (Lord Wellington/Hayward).
-Mr. Sina was contacted by a Senior from the High School wanting to work on the Town Beach Preserve as a part of his senior project.

iii. Climate Resilience –Mr. Olin-unavailable to report. Mr. Sina reported.
Mr. Olin will be leading a workshop for the Save the Sound Organization about sustainable and resilient communities on December 7th.
-The Annual Connecticut Land Conservation Conference will be held March 23, 2024, at Wesleyan. Since the Conservation Commission is a contributor to the CLCC, they should get members' rates for anyone attending the annual meeting.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC Updates-Mr. Gillis will report moving forward.
-Nothing new to report.

ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis
-Nothing new to report.

iii. Open Space updates-Mr. Sina will report moving forward.
Nothing new to report.

iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Beard will report moving forward.
-Grants for environmental projects are available.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson
-Salmon River Overlook-Mr. Wilson suggested planting pine and red oak trees within the mug wort to protect the seedlings from deer browsing.
-Ask Public Works not to cut the Patrell or Salmon River Outlook properties.
-Consider getting a garden plot at the Community Garden for seedlings/as a nursery.

d. Reserve Monitor Discussion -Ms. Gelston
-Gelston easement tree was removed.

-Mrs. Gelston will email Reserve Monitors to be sure they are still interested and if they know of others interested in becoming Reserve Monitors. Reserve Monitors are needed for Hayward, Nichols and Lord Wellington.
-Distribute copies of Trail Monitor duties. They are included at the end of these meeting minutes.

7. New Business

   a. New bills

Motion to approve the bill(s) as presented:
-$71.17 Shagbark invoice dated 11/20/23 for lumber for bog bridge at Lord Wellington.
-$170.11 invoice #34891 dated 10/29/2023 to Essex Printing for Chapal Farm Preserve Maps.
-$187.15 invoice #34898 dated 10/29/2023 to Essex Printing for Nichols Field and Forest Maps.
-$ 75.30 invoice #34900 dated 10/29/23 to Essex Printing for Hayward Reserve Maps.

Gillis/Wilson Passed unanimously.

   b. Thoughts from The Chair

Next year goals for the Conservation Commission to consider:
-Public outreach and education.
-Facebook page. Maureen Gillis has offered.
-Website.
-Digital/interactive trail maps.
-Another hiking event in addition to the Breast Cancer Awareness event (16 people took part).
-QR codes on trails with website information.
-Develop a Master Map with information such as walkability, geology, and history.
-Outreach to students at the High School to help with trail work as a part of their senior projects.

8. Announcements and other discussions. There was none.

9. Public Comment (can be sent via email to: ccchair@easthaddam.org) -There was none.

10. Next meeting: Tues. 05 Dec. 7:00 pm, Room #1

11. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:32 p.m.
Gelston/Gillis Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary

Want to be a Reserve Monitor?

Do you enjoy hiking at the Town of East Haddam property? The East Haddam Conservation Commission (EHCC) manages the Town's open space properties with trails and could use help from users who walk or ride our trails on a regular basis. If you live near or find that you use a particular property consistently, consider signing up to be a Reserve Monitor.

What Are the Responsibilities of a Reserve Monitor?

- Walk or ride (where allowed) the trail(s) of your choice monthly.
- Report to the Reserve Monitor Manager any of the following:
- Large trees down across trails.
- Worn or unable to be read trail markers/blazes.
- Kiosks in need of painting or repair.
- Evidence of vandalism or damage to the property.
- Evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., motorized vehicles, dumping, trash accumulation)

Optional Responsibilities

- Remove small, downed limbs off trails.
- Cut back intruding small vines, briars or branches.
- Pick up trash.
- Assist EHCC with events at your selected property.

Important Restrictions

For safety reasons, *no power tools* can be used by a Reserve Monitor. Work requiring power tools is only performed by EHCC members or the Town Public Works Department.

HOW TO INQUIRE OR BECOME A RESERVE MONITOR

If you are interested in helping the EHCC maintain our beautiful Town's trails, or if you have questions, send an email with your name and telephone number to:

CCChair@easthaddam.org