East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 4, 2024
Municipal Office Building Room #1

1. Call to order – Called to order at 7:00 p.m.
   In attendance: Joe Sina, Bernie Gillis, Cameron Beard, John Olin, Gary Wilson, David Walls, Barry Bernard, Tanya Bourgoin, and Ruth Ziobron.

   Absent: Susan Pagnano and Alan Ponanski.

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary)-Mr. Walls was appointed.
3. Approval of agenda
   Motion to approve the agenda.
   Gillis/Beard Passed Unanimously

4. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes May 7, 2024
   Motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.
   Beard/Gillis Passed Unanimously

5. General announcements

- Budget Update**:** Printing costs are $1,600. Supplies are almost over budget at $3,000. QR codes on kiosks may help reduce costs.
- Filming Request**:** The Town approved a documentary scene on Lexington and Concord at the Patrell bridge.
- Hunting Signs**:** New waterproof tape will be placed over incorrect or misleading texts regarding hunting dates/hours on signs at reserve entrances.
- There was discussion about the intended removal of trees by the Tree Warden. The CC has offered to interview Michele Velez for an informative news article in the future. A public hearing is scheduled on June 13 regarding the intended removal or pruning of selected tagged trees located on Schulman Veselak Road and Newberry Road.
- The Sustainability Committee will hold a town-wide picnic at the Grange to celebrate receiving the Silver Certificate on June 22nd at the Grange. CC will have an informational table.

6. Presentations from the public- There were none.

7. Old business
    a. Subcommittee updates

i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gillis
- New kiosks were installed at the Dean and Shugrue properties.
- Trail maintenance was performed at various locations.
- There was a discussion about the maintenance schedule and mowing responsibilities needed.

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson
- An article was published on birding in the Events Magazine.
- Upcoming article ideas: Hayward property, wildlife corridors.

iii. Climate Resilience –Mr. Olin
- Succor Brook study is progressing.
- Technical Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for June 18th.
- A public workshop is scheduled for July; date TBD.

b. Liaison Reports

i. IWWC Updates-Mr. Walls: No updates.

ii. P&Z updates – Mr. Gillis
- New agricultural regulations were approved.
- Tree cutting oversight discussed, moving to Board of Selectman.

iii. Open Space updates-Mr. Sina: No updates.

iv. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr. Beard
- Grant request discussions were held including herbicide policy.
- Eightmile has provided East Haddam Land Trust with grant funds to assist with the purchase of the property next to Walls Way.

v. Sustainability Committee- Mr. Ponanski
- Focus on transparency in street-cutting projects.
- The Sustainability Committee will hold a town-wide picnic at the Grange to celebrate receiving the Silver Certificate on June 22nd at the Grange. CC will have an informational table.

c. Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson
- Knotweed Management: Tarps used to manage knotweed at Salmon River Overlook.
- Swamp Oak Trees: 25 trees to be planted, ideal locations needed.
- Community Garden: Cleared and ready for planting of viburnum, high bush cranberry, and sunflowers.

d. Reserve Monitor Discussion –Mr. Sina
- Limited responses from reserve monitors; further engagement is needed.

8. New Business

    a. New bills

    Motion to approve the bill(s) as presented:

- $192.21 to Gary Wilson for supplies (tarps, trash bags).
- $27.11 for hunting sign tape.
- $100 to David Walls for conference registration.
- $229.89 to Bernie Gillis for kiosks.
- $65.76 to Shagbark for lumber and staples.

    Gillis/Walls Passed unanimously

    b. Discussion from Commission members

- There was a discussion regarding trail construction on the Hand property. Mr. Beard proposed connecting the Lena Preserve through the Hand Property to Devil's Hopyard. The discussion was deferred to the next meeting for further review and feedback.
- Concerns were raised by one commissioner about the impact on wildlife, citing a study on turtle populations affected by recreational trails. Suggestions were made to mitigate the effects, such as limiting trail width and seeking expert wildlife assessments.
- Members debated the sustainability of maintaining multiple trails.
- The need for manpower and professional stewardship was emphasized.

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

10. Next meeting: Tues. 02 July 2024 7:00 pm, Room #1

11. Adjournment

    Motion to Adjourn at 8:50 p.m.
    Beard/Wilson Passed unanimously.

    Respectfully Submitted,
    E. Ruth Ziobron
    Recording Secretary