East Haddam Open Space Committee
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2024

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Open Space Committee was called to order by Mr. Brady at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Office Complex.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Will Brady (HDC), Mary Augustiny (IWWC), Susan Kinsman (P&Z), Andrew Compagno (EHLT), Tanya Bourgoin (BOS), Travis Goodie (REC)
Members Absent: Harvey W. Thomas (BOF), Joe Sina (CONS), Marc Pissciotti (BOE), Jessica Stone (EDC)
Also Present: James Ventres (Land Use Administrator)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion by Ms. Kinsman to accept the April 22, 2024, minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Goodie and unanimously approved. Ms. Augustiny abstained.

4. Bills

No bills.

5. Discussion

a. Letters of Support – East Haddam Land Trust CT DEEP Open Space Grant application. Property on Tater Hill Road, 14.12 acres, Miller Farm Preserve to the North (EHLT), Walls Way to the west (EHLT), Lena Town Open Space Property to the south, and a conservation easement to the east. In the Eightmile Wild & Scenic Watershed.

Mr. Ventres provided a map that outlined the land the EHLT is looking to purchase using the State's DEEP Open Space Grant application. Having this new piece provides the opportunity to create a single trail to connect several properties out in the Tater Hill area and avoid the vernal pools that are within existing properties. It sits within the Eightmile Wild and Scenic Watershed. EHLT is looking for letters of support for this new opportunity.
Right across the street, the EHL is making the Miller Farms parking lot larger to accommodate trails in both directions.

A motion by Ms. Kinsman to write a letter of support to the DEEP for the EHLT to leverage the grant monies to purchase this open space. Seconded by Mr. Goodie and unanimously approved.

b. Sprecher Property Exchange.

Mr. Ventres provided an update on the Sprecher Property. He reviewed a number of different maps to show the property that the Town would like to exchange to create a continuous trail from the Dean Conservation Easement to the Harris Property. Mr. Ventres walked through the land with Attorney Sprecher. He discovered that the land had been cleared for beef cattle including a bull, so the original land that was going to be a trail would have required a fence to properly protect the public. Mr. Ventres and Attorney Sprecher outlined a new area that will connect the properties and eliminate the need for a fence on the west side as well as stays on dry land.

The goal is to provide Attorney Sprecher with 5.6 acres and the Town will get 2.2 acres which the Town would outright own and an additional 1.6 acres under conservation easement to create trails for public use.

The Committee requested a site walk to see the property; Mr. Ventres will send out some dates for a weekend site walk.

6. Kronberg Property – Update

Mr. Ventres finally got notice from the DEEP, and the surveyor provided information be for the survey. The Town is waiting for reimbursement from the State which takes time. Once it is completed, the conservation easement will be sent down and that will be placed on the land records. The signage must be posted. The property template will include the dedication to the parents as requested by the owners who sold the property. There are already a number of existing trails on Kronberg. There will be a parking area off of North Moodus Road and the biggest one is off the school parking lot and the trail is right between the stonewall. The costs for the Town are surveying and legal fees.

7. Executive Session

No executive session needed tonight.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Goodie to attend the meeting at 8:04pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Compagno and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary