East Haddam
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

MINUTES

Conservation Commission Meeting, Town of East Haddam, Jan 4, 2022

1. Call to order - roll call

   A) The regular meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was convened in the Municipal Office Building Room #1 on Tuesday, Jan 4, 2022, at 7:00pm. The Chairperson was in the Chair.

   B) Roll call at 7:05 pm -Gary Wilson, John Olin, Thom Delventhal, Bernie Gillis, Susan Pagnano. Charlotte Gelston arrived a few minutes after the meeting was started. Tyler Meek and Charlie Myers were absent.

2. Alternate appointments (if necessary): None

3. Approval of agenda:

   A. Mr Olin requested 10 minutes in the Outreach and Promotion section to present his research and discuss his article *Adapting to Change*

   B. Approval of agenda as presented by Mr. Delventhal and seconded by Mr Gillis.

4. Approval of Conservation Commission minutes Dec. 7, 2021, as amended:

   5A1g - Spelling of Urbanik was corrected
   5A1h - Deleted reference to a needed survey for Gelston easement to read "Mr. Gillis is planning to meet…"
   5A2a - Corrected spelling of Ms. Pagnano's name
   5A2c - Replaced section on Mr. Olin's discussion as follows:
   Mr Olin reported on environmental change in the Town, and the ordinances that apply to a proposed subcommittee. He handed out and read a paper, *Research for proposed subcommittee on environmental change*. Mr Meek asked Mr Olin for an explanation of the specific POCD goals. Mr Olin said his *Adapting to Change* should be submitted for publication after he had more information. Mr. Delventhal expressed disappointment that the article would not be published. Mr Wilson expressed the need for specific goals and objectives for the subcommittee, and read a comment from Ms. Pagnano which recommended Mr Olin become a liaison with local environmental groups. Mr Gillis spoke about various areas of our primary responsibilities which are touched on by the proposed subcommittee. He said we should focus on the local effects of climate change. A motion was passed for Mr Olin to continue his research.

   (at minute 12 of the video recording First Selectwoman Irene Haines entered the room to join the meeting)
   (Prior to the start of item #5, Mr. Wilson spoke about mapping software and GPS tool which was sent to CC by Marilyn Gleeson) Cameron Beard is being trained to do this mapping.

5. Old business
   a. Subcommittee updates
      i. Stewardship & Forestry Management – Mr. Gilliis
         a) Several days at Gelston property, mulching, with red & green trails blazing with Mr. Olin; Time with neighbor Joe Sina and Mr Wilson and Ms Gelston
         b) Day at Tree work at Rose Family Farm

c) Robby Road. EHLT wants us to connect with Monica Woods, mapped with Cameron Beard, bridges approval needed; kiosk to be built.

d) Bridge work at Roaring Brook with Mr. Olin: footings; Mr. Meek joined for deck framing; Mr. Olin and My. Gillis did decking; Mr. Wilson joined for more decking; 12-13 hours total volunteer time.

Mrs Gelston commended on need for higher ground for red trail near parking at Gelston easement—Mr Gillis said has been done; still need widening

Mr Wilson commented that Joe Sina and his wife are willing to be trail monitors. Gelston Easement article has been sent to Linda Z. for Events Magazine

ii. Outreach & Promotion – Mr. Wilson

a) First Selectwoman offered to be trail monitor. Mr Wilson has list of 6-7 names of potential trail monitors. Ms Gelston will be liaison. Ms. Pagnano suggested Boy Scouts be involved as trail monitors. She will follow up

b) Mr Olin presented & briefly discussed two handouts: *Six Key Connecticut Climate Change Resources* and *EHCC Goals in POCD for Proposed Subcommittee Climate Resilience (CR).* The commission discussed and made suggestions concerning the revised article *Adapting to Change.* There was unanimous agreement that it be submitted to the EH News for the Conservation Conversations column. The chair asked the First Selectwoman for her thoughts and she responded favorably regarding our "initiative." Mr Delventhal asked when the new subcommittee would be formed and Mr Wilson asked that we keep that for the February agenda. Mr. Wilson stated his concerns about overextending ourselves. Ms. Pagnano suggested there should be a follow-up article and that the proposed subcommittee is a way to recruit new volunteers. Mr Gillis gave a "heads-up" that the P&Z Commission was going to augment the POCD goals, and we might consider adding to the goals.

b) Liaison Reports (video minute 51.34)

ii. IWWC updates – Mr. Delventhal noted the IWWC approval of the Roaring Brook bridge.

iii. P&Z updates – Mr Gillis Nothing relative to CC

iv. Open Space updates – Mr Delventhal had no report

v. Eightmile Committee updates – Mr Gillis walked Goodwin Trail, cleared trees, missing signage.

Burrnham Brook House ready for EHLT, Eight Mile Coordinating Committee, Nature Conservacy. Next year we plan to make connection between Burnham Brook and Lefevre property.

c) Planting/existing garden updates – Mr. Wilson summarized: all plants put in all have deer repellent. At Patrell preserve: pollinator plants look healthy, 11 trees in pine plantation are doing well, native plants growing in field. Will add plantings to budget. Spoke of reforestation with new undergrowth, opening up areas to wildlife, importance of native plantings for birds, replacing invasive plants such as Burning Bush, Barberry, Bittersweet. Mr Delventhal described microburst clearings colonized by invasive species. Mt Wilson favors mulching of invasives at Salmon River overlook. Mt Gillis asked for list of who is responsible for mowing. Discussion held on finding an area for CC tools, equipment, and supplies. Renting a building was discussed with the First Selectwoman who recommended we talk with Mr Ventres. Ms. Gelston suggested purchasing a portable building to be located at the Harris property. Mr Wilson will follow-up with Mr Ventres.

6. New Business

b. New bills. Mr Wilson: Shagbark $31.34 for bridge footings; motion for approval by Ms Pagnano, second Mr Delventhal. Ms. Pagnano bill for Breast Cancer event $32.15 motion to approve Mr Delventhal, second Mr Olin. Mr Wilson will check on bills for chainsaw and drill battery.
c. Membership discussion: Mr Wilson: 7 possible reserve monitors
d. Schedule for 2022 meetings: 1st Tuesday of every month. No dates on holiday.
e. Goals for 2022. Discussion of budget due on Jan 15th. Mr Wilson spoke with Mr Ventres about a 10 car Parking lot at Hayward lot. Mr Wilson raised possible consideration of Zelzelnicky property which has signage but no parking, no trails. Mr Gillis says this is not high priority.
f. Recording secretary: the First Selectwoman said that she is looking into a person who might be able to do it from home. Mr Wilson spoke of budgeting $1,500 for clerical/ recording secretary, $2,400 for printing and binding. (Charlotte has Important Bird Area brochures). Mr Delventhal noted typos on maps. Other supplies: $ 6,000. Kiosks: 6 more needed. Per kiosk $400-500. Mr Olin suggested that we invest in a structure where we could build things, prompting discussion of possible buildings. Mr Olin suggested that Mr. Gillis be compensated for his milage expenses in building projects. Mr Wilson: $500 plants ($400 for ADA plantings and $100 wildflower seeds), $200 mulch. $ 300 Dues and fees. $500 Conferences. $500 Community events. Mr Wilson raised idea of $10,000 for possible Gazebo at Patrell Preserve for handicapped people. Seedlings in Community Garden at little cost. Mr Gillis reviewed last year's budget. Mr Olin said he would contact Ms Gleeson about groups we are associated with. Mr Wilson spoke about tree harvesting of our supervised properties. Mr Wilson will speak with Mr Gelston about this. Mr Gilllis emphasized adding rental of a building to the budget "wish list."
g. Charlotte served her chocolate delights. Thank you.

6. Public Comment: None
7. Next meeting: Tue. Feb. 1, 7:00 pm, Room #1
8. Announcements and other discussion: None
9. Adjournment at 8:50 pm on motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Gelston

Minutes drafted by Mr Olin

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Wilson, Chair,
East Haddam Conservation Commission