

Town of East Haddam
Conservation Commission
April 3, 2007
Adopted May 1, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 3, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., at the River House. John Gibson being in the Chair and the Secretary being present.

a. Roll Call

In attendance were Sue Merrow, Paul Stuhlman, TJ Tarbox, Nancy McKinnon, John Gibson and Cynthia Matthew.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Tarbox to approve the March 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Stuhlman.

-page 2, send line, strike "Reading" and replace with "Redding".

Favor: Merrow, Stuhlman, Tarbox, Matthew

Abstain: Gibson, McKinnon

Motion passed.

4. Old Business

Discussion with Police Officer

Mr. Gibson informed Mike Hasset, State Trooper, that the Conservation Commission had been trying to recruit conservation volunteers to help look after town property. Officer Hasset questioned how many acres were involved, to which Mr. Gibson replied approximately 500. Mr. Gibson stated the commission needed to understand what kind of interaction would take place if a volunteer were to call with a concern. Mr. Gibson explained that currently the Dente family was active participants overseeing the Urbin property. Last summer there was underage drinking sighted on this property.

Officer Hasset stated volunteers should be good witnesses by getting detailed information such as license plate numbers and description of violators. Officer Hasset stated violators should not be confronted by the volunteers. Officer Hasset questioned if the properties had no trespassing signs posted. Mr. Gibson stated no because they are open for town's people. Officer Hasset requested a tour of the properties so the properties could be actively patrolled. Mrs. Merrow offered to introduce the Dente family to Officer Hasset.

Mrs. Merrow questioned if a list of volunteers would be needed. Officer Hasset replied no because all calls were taken seriously. Officer Hasset stated volunteers could call the East Haddam phone number 873-1226 and if they were not in the office it would be sent to the Colchester barracks. Officer Hasset stated all calls are investigated.

Mr. Stuhlman questioned if the land needed to be posted. Officer Hasset replied it made it easier to enforce. Mr. Gibson voiced concern with the potential offenders at the new middle school property.

Mrs. Matthew questioned the procedure if the trooper was called and was already on a call. Officer Hasset replied all calls are investigated in the order which they were received. Officer Hasset assured the commission that they had 100% of his support. Mr. Hasset stated he could be reached at his voice mail 537-7555 extension 4051.

Mrs. MacKinnon distributed the following document:

- The Habitat, spring 2006, Vol. XVIII No. 2. The new encroachment law will enable the commission to start court actions against violators.

Open Space Committee Report

Mr. Pease was unavailable to report. There were discussions of the importance of attendance to the Open Space meetings by the Commission.

Open Space Inventory Committee Report

Mrs. MacKinnon is still working on the resources inventory. The commission is awaiting a draft plan of development by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

5. Communications & Bills

Mr. Gibson discussed the following communications:

- Memo from the East Haddam Economic Development Commission regarding a village update meeting scheduled For Thursday, April 5, 2007pm at the Grange Hall.
- American Farmland Trust, April 10, 2007 at the extension center.
- State of Connecticut DEP regarding Dam construction emergency authorization, Urban Pond Dam, Ct#4144, dated March 22, 2007.
- State of Connecticut DEP regarding Cranberry Meadow Brook, unnamed tributary to Cranberry Meadow Brook, dated 3/9/07.
- Winter 2007 Habitat.

6. New Business

Mr. Gibson informed the commission that the Tree Warden would be attending the next meeting.

Some seats on the commission will expire this year. Mr. Gibson stated a motion must be made soon, so that the Selectman can reappoint interested members in a timely manner.

Mrs. Merrow distributed and discussed the following:

- Document by the Sierra Club, titled Cool Cities, Solving Global Warming

One City at a Time.

- Document by the Sierra Club, titled Cool Cities, Solving Global Warming One City at a Time, Guide to Local Global Warming Solutions.
- Listing of various towns involved the Cool Cities program.
- Document titled Endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Mrs. Merrow stated there was a good chance of the expansion of the bottle bill to pass this year.

Mr. Stuhlman suggested engaging school children, through their families as stewards. Mr. Stuhlman stated that a program could be started through the school in which the children could become junior stewards in which their family would agree that they would walk a certain parcel several times a year and report to a liaison from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Stuhlman suggested that the junior stewards could receive a badge/reward from the First Selectman or Conservation Commission Chairman. Mr. Stuhlman stated it would be a way for parents to teach their children about conservation, rural character and community service. Mr. Gibson stated recruitment would need to be an ongoing process because children graduated.

Mr. Gibson stated that the commission was still waiting for an updated map from Mr. Ventres indicating town owned properties. Mr. Stuhlman stated families with younger children should be targeted for the junior stewards program. Mr. Stuhlman offered to work on this program. Mr. Gibson suggested targeting middle school students. It was decided to brain storm the best steps to take for finding junior stewards at the next scheduled meeting.

Mrs. Mathew offered to research actions taken by other towns such as Redding, which had aided in the preservation of rural character. Mrs. Mathew stated there are other methods for retaining rural character than just purchasing open space. Mr. Gibson stated that scenic road designations discouraged development.

It was suggested that the commission form two subcommittees: Stewardship and sponsorship of open space. Mr. Stuhlman volunteered to chair the stewardship subcommittee. Mrs. Mathew volunteered to attend all Open Space meetings.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Tarbox at 8:30p.m. to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. MacKinnon and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted;
E. Ruth Ziobron
Recording Secretary