

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2022
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	Mardi Hanson-d'Alessandro
X	Gail Reynolds, Chairman
X	Tom Worthley
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Reynolds, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to approve the 27 April 2022 agenda as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to approve the 30 March 2022 minutes as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments

There was no one from the public present.

6. Old Business

a) Higganum Center Trails/Walking Path

Mrs. Reynolds stated she had nothing new to report at this time; but asked Mrs. Batzner if there was any discussion regarding the walking path at the 20 April 2022 Higganum Cove meeting. Mrs. Batzner stated there was nothing specific to the walking path data the Commission's intern had generated, but there was discussion in regard to possible options for connecting the Center and the Cove as well as other natural resources such as Swan Hill, the Reservoir, and the New England Trail. No final decisions made by the Cove Committee at this time.

Swan Hill - A brief discussion followed in regard the Haddam Land Trust (HLT) changing Swan Hill's entry point to Dublin Hill (former Dog Pound) as it's unclear what may become of Haddam Elementary School (HES) and the continued ability to gain access from there and the addition of signage. Mrs. Reynolds reported when the parcel was surveyed, the HLT was informed they own the driveway/road that comes in off of Dublin Hill.

b) Open Space

There was nothing new to report.

c) Budget

Mrs. Reynolds reported she was pleased Bill Warner, Town Planner, had submitted a budget on behalf of the Commission, but that she wished he had let her know that he had done so. Proposed 2022-2023 budget: \$1,000.00 each to Conservation Activities and Salmon River Watershed. Public Hearing and Annual Town Meeting, Wednesdays, 4 May and 18 May 2022, respectively, 6:30 p.m., Haddam Volunteer Fire Station #1, Community Hall, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum.

d) POCD

Conservation Action Items – Discussion – Mrs. Reynolds reported the Commission was doing well with monitoring their Action Items until the pandemic started and then nothing was being accomplished. Mrs. Reynolds stated she would like to review the POCD to see where the Commission stands and report back at the next meeting.

PIC Meeting – Update - Mrs. Reynolds reported that the POCD Implementation Committee (PIC) had met on Monday, 25 April 2022 and it was a productive meeting. Mrs. Reynolds stated the PIC is merely to monitor how the action items are being worked on or completed and to report back to P&Z. PIC will meet again on Monday, 6 June 2022, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam.

e) Native Plant Ordinance – Review Draft Language - Update

Mrs. Reynolds reported she had not done any further work on the native plant ordinance, but the Town of Newtown has passed a native plant ordinance and it may be best to use their language. Mrs. Reynolds stated she hopes to have an update for the next meeting.

f) Swan Hill – Management Plan – Student Fellow - Update

Mr. Worthley reported a draft document will be available for review next week. Mr. Worthley stated access, trail work, signage, etc., will be addressed in the document. Mr. Worthley stated this will also assist Bill Cowan, HLT President, in showing that a plan is being developed and this is how the HLT wants things handled and/or followed.

g) Battery Grid Parcel 05-64 - Update

Mrs. Reynolds reported she had not heard anything new regarding this matter and asked that it be removed from the agenda.

7. New Business

a) Communications/Publications/Correspondence

No communications, publications, or correspondence had been received.

Native Trees and Wetlands Plants Books - Mrs. Reynolds spoke in regard to the following books: Native Trees of Connecticut (not impressed) and Wetlands Plants of Connecticut and Rhode Island (impressed). Discussion followed in regard to what is deemed a native plant – before widespread European settlement v. something that's suitable for the present need.

Charcoal Production - Mr. Worthley stated he had a nice conversation and walk with Jack Calhoun who has taken an interest in charcoal production that took place at the turn of the last century. Mr. Worthley stated the Nosal family has found a lot of old paperwork as well as photographs of charcoal production in the area that will be turned over to the Historical Society. Mr. Worthley reported that Mr. Calhoun asked about locations where charcoal was produced and he showed Mr. Calhoun a couple of sites – one on his

property and one on State property, and then they went up to the Dunham Preserve where they found the old shanty site (photograph shown). Mr. Worthley stated when the family is through reviewing and scanning the photos, he and/or Mr. Calhoun will need to get together with Lisa Malloy, Director, Haddam Historical Society, and arrange for a presentation. A brief discussion followed.

8. Announcements

a) Scovil Hoe Buildings Open House, Sunday, 1 May 2022, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 11 Candlewood Hill Road, Higganum – Mr. Worthley asked who's conducting the open house. Mrs. Batzner stated Mr. Warner pulled it together and EDC is sponsoring. Mrs. Reynolds stated Kate Anderson, EDC Chairman and Selectwoman, posted the Notice to Facebook.

b) RSD#17 Referendum, Tuesday, 3 May 2022, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., various voting locations

c) Memorial Day Parade, Monday, 30 May 2022, 9:30 a.m., Higganum Center

9. Land Use Dept. Report

No report given.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to adjourn. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 25 May 2022, at the
Community Center, 7 Candlewood Hill Road, Higganum.**