

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY ROOM
FIRE STATION #1, 439 SAYBROOK ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2021
*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 7:03 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken and Mrs. Reynolds welcomed Howie Burr.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 27 October 2021 agenda as submitted. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to approve the 29 September 2021 minutes as submitted. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments

There was no one from the public present.

6. Old Business

a) Higganum Center Trails/Walking Path

There was nothing new to report at this time.

b) Open Space

Mrs. Reynolds reported that she has not heard of anything new regarding open space.

Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Haddam Land Trust (HLT) received an infusion of funds from the sale of a building lot that was donated to the HLT by Leslie Starr, a former Conservation member, for the purpose of the HLT selling it and placing the funds in the HLT's open space purchasing funds.

c) Budget

Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) – Mrs. Reynolds asked Mrs. Batzner if Bill Warner, Town Planner, had paid for the Commission's membership to CACIWC. Mrs. Batzner stated she didn't know, but would check with Mr. Warner. Mrs. Reynolds noted the annual conference, to be held virtually, is scheduled for Saturday, 6 November 2021.

d) POCD – Conservation Action Items – Discussion Continued – Commission Report

There was nothing new to report at this time.

e) Native Plant Ordinance

Mrs. Reynolds reported that she reviewed the Somerville, MA and Newtown, CT ordinances; and that she preferred Somerville's language (nice organization), but that she didn't care for the language "any plant east of the Mississippi" as some are the Connecticut invasive plant list. Mrs. Reynolds stated she added language about the Connecticut Invasive Species Plants list. Mrs. Reynolds reviewed a rough draft of the proposed ordinance.

Mrs. Reynolds did question how native species can combat the climate crisis. Ms. Hanson stated they would help pollinators. Mrs. Reynolds stated she looked at that as more habitat species rather than climate. Mr. Worthley stated if there's a diversity of native species then you would have built in resilience. Mrs. Reynolds agreed.

Mrs. Reynolds stated she will note that the proposed ordinance is consistent with the POCD and it's a goal of the Sustainability Committee. Mrs. Reynolds will speak to the Haddam Garden Club regarding this proposal.

Mr. Burr asked the meaning of a rain garden. Ms. Hanson stated it's an area designated to capture the rain and planted with water loving plants. Mr. Burr asked if the area in the Haddam Meadows would be considered a rain garden. Mrs. Reynolds stated no.

Mr. Worthley asked Mrs. Reynolds if she will be doing anything further with the document and then send it out for review by the Commission. Mrs. Reynolds stated absolutely, as it's easier to look at language and then submit comments.

Ms. Hanson stated this document will need to be made available to residents for their review as it will need to go to a town meeting. Mrs. Reynolds stated it has to go through a town meeting, but before it reaches that point, there would need to be discusses with Mr. Warner and the Garden Club. In terms of reaching out to people, Ms. Hanson suggested an abbreviated version of the ordinance saying the ordinance will cover "x, y, and z" and that full copies can be located at and name a specific place.

This topic will be discussed further at the November meeting.

7. New Business

a) Communications/Publications/Correspondence

No communications, publications, or correspondence had been received.

b) 2022 Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Batzner distributed copies of the 2022 meeting schedule to the Commissioners.

8. Announcements

a) November Meeting – Wednesday, 17 November 2021

Due to Thanksgiving, the Commission's November meeting will be held one week early at the Community Center.

9. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner reported: **ZBA** – October meeting cancelled. **ARC** – Meeting to review a proposal from Lisa Wadge on Brookes Court and Route 154; and a proposal for apartments at 105 Bridge Road (former

Eco-Tourism site). **P&Z** – October meetings cancelled. **EDC** – Discussed the Farmers’ Market (successful 2021 season and potential change from Fridays to Saturday next season) and River Days (successful event). **Wetlands** – Applicant for proposed feed store at 968 Killingworth Road did not attend meeting and discussed updating of forestry regulations.

Rockfall Grant – Mr. Worthley reported the grant is due the 10th of November and will circulate the grant to all Commissioners early next week.

Jim Puska, Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer – As Ms. Hanson and Mr. Burr were not in attendance at the September meeting, Mrs. Reynolds advised them of Mr. Puska’s passing on Saturday, 25 September, 2021. Mrs. Reynolds reported that Mr. Warner is filling in until someone is hired.

“Welcome to Haddam” Signs – Ms. Hanson reported that the Haddam-Killingworth News recently printed an article regarding the installation of a new sign and credited the Haddam Garden Club with being instrumental in getting the original signs designed and installed over 20 years ago. Ms. Hanson stated she will be sending a letter to the editor indicating that the Garden Club has stepped up to replace the damaged signs; however, to clarify the record, the original signage was a project of the Conservation Commission and were carefully researched and designed by Leslie Starr, carved by Dennis DeCarli, and were funded thanks to the generosity of Tony Bondi, former first selectman.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to adjourn. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 17 November 2021, at the
Community Center, 7 Candlewood Hill Road, Higganum.**