

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM  
WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2017  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

**ATTENDANCE**

X	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
A	Ian Gibson
X	Mardi Hanson-d'Alessandro
X	Gail Reynolds, Chairman
A	Tom Worthley
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**1. Call to Order**

Mrs. Reynolds, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

**2. Attendance**

Attendance was taken.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Walter Bragoni moved to approve the 29 March 2017 agenda as submitted. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mardi Hanson moved to approve the 22 February 2017 minutes as submitted. Walter Bragoni second. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Public Comment**

None.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Open Space**

**Connecticut Audubon Open Space Funding Plan for 2017** - Mrs. Reynolds reported she received an email indicating the legislature decided not to move forward with this plan. Mrs. Reynolds stated with former Rep. Miller no longer in office and the state's budget problems, this is not the right time for this.

**b. Budget**

**Beaver Ledges** – Mrs. Reynolds reported she did speak to the Haddam Land Trust in regard to the Commission is willing to assist with some funding for a project at Beaver Ledges. Mrs. Reynolds stated Land Trust members still do not have a project in mind and are aware this is a time sensitive matter.

### **c. Plan of Conservation of Development (POCD) – Update – 13 April 2017 Meeting**

Copies of the 2007 POCD Action Steps were distributed to all Commission members. Mrs. Reynolds reported she attended a commissions chairman's meeting last week scheduled by Liz Glidden, Town Planner, and that Lizz Milardo, First Selectman, was also in attendance. At this meeting, Mrs. Glidden explained what is being looked for in terms of the Action Steps and it was decided to have each commission prioritize three goals as there will be a different frame work use for the updated POCD. Discussion followed in regard to the potential three goals for the Conservation Commission.

1) **Conservation easements and all aspects of that** – mapping, get all the language together, have the town pay someone to map them on the ground (baseline documentation), and have Conservation Commission conduct an annual walk to make sure easements have not been violated (this may also assist in getting people interested in the Commission).

2) **Natural resource inventory and protection in town** - make it clear to all commissions the Conservation Commission would be the one to do the natural resource inventory and protection in town and be included in any Planning and Zoning (P&Z) process (Jamin Laurenza, P&Z Chairman, and Steve Bull, P&Z Vice Chairman, who also attended the chairman's meeting, were amenable to this). Also to make clear to other officials, such as the Board of Selectmen, etc., if there is a natural resource question it must be addressed to the Conservation Commission.

As for a third goal, Mrs. Reynolds reported she was unclear what to consider as the Commission has talked about several items: 1) water quality (what does the Commission want to achieve with this), 2) low impact development (more P&Z related), 3) promoting rural activities (believe there should be language pertaining to agriculture), and 4) finding an industrial zone (P&Z matter). Ms. Hanson asked if the Commission, in an advisory manner, could identify parcels with less natural resource impact for an industrial zone. Mrs. Reynolds stated possibly. Mr. Bragoni stated he understands the need to plan ahead, but questioned how much industry is coming in to town. Mrs. Reynolds stated she feels bad for the three residents who will be affected by the recently approved Industrial Park on Route 81. Mr. Bragoni stated an industrial zone can be located in an area if it's done correctly (criteria followed). Discussion followed in regard to the difficulty in locating the Transfer Station and the cost to do so (time and funding).

For a third goal, Mr. Bragoni suggested **promoting outdoor recreation and good use of these areas** - use of the existing trails, hiking/mountain biking, recruit a bicycle shop into town, acknowledged mountain bikes do place wear and tear on the trails, maintenance of trails (state maintains Blue Trails through volunteers), and getting people to understand what's available to them and use them.

Mrs. Reynolds stated this item can be tabled until the April meeting to allow Commissioners time to review the copies of the Action Steps. Ms. Hanson stated she would like to get Mr. Worthley's and Mr. Gibson's input on this matter as well. Ms. Hanson asked Mrs. Reynolds to reiterate her explanation of what information is being requested in a second email to all Commissioners. Mrs. Reynolds took one copy of the Action Steps to give to Mr. Worthley and Mrs. Batzner will mail a copy to Mr. Gibson.

Item tabled until the 26 April 2017 meeting.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Communications/Publications/Correspondence**

**Tree Wardens' Meeting** - Mrs. Reynolds reported the Tree Wardens' Association of Connecticut, Inc., will be hold a meeting on Friday, 28 April 2017, 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Omni Hotel, New Haven. For further details go to: [www.cttreewardens.org](http://www.cttreewardens.org).

**The Habitat** - Mrs. Batzner to look into whether or not the copies of The Habitat have arrived.

## 8. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner reported on the following: **Wetlands** – 400 Beaver Meadow Road – Site Walk - No quorum; however, at their regularly scheduled meeting, the commission did approve work to take place within a wetland area. **ZBA** – 400 Beaver Meadow Road requesting a front yard variance. Meeting scheduled for 03/30/2017. (Recording Clerk's Note: Request denied.) **P&Z** – GCI Outdoor, Inc., 457 Killingworth Road - warehouse and office building approved on 03/02/2017. Last two meetings have been canceled. **EDC** – Working hard on various projects. Spring Event, April 22 and 23, has been canceled. **Charter** – Still working on revisions. **POCD** – Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, 04/13/2017, 6:30 p.m., Community Center, 7 Candlewood Hill Road.

## 9. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Mardi Hanson moved to adjourn. Walter Bragoni second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bunny Hall Batzner*

Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 26 April 2017.**