

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM  
WEDNESDAY, 31 MAY 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
X	Tom Worthley
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**1. Call to Order**

Mrs. Reynolds, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Attendance**

Attendance was taken.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Mardi Hanson moved to approve the 31 May 2017 agenda as submitted. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

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

**5. Public Comment**

None.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Open Space**

**Easement Mapping Project** - Mrs. Reynolds reported the 2017-2018 budget has passed. This budget includes the \$10,000 line item that Liz Glidden, Town Planner, put in to work on this project.

**Beaver Ledges** – Mrs. Reynolds reported a conservation easement is needed with the state and this is still being worked on. In regard to the Commission's willingness to assist with the funding of a special project, Mrs. Reynolds reported the Haddam Land Trust has decided on the purchase of a sign.

**Mapping of Vernal Pools** - Mrs. Reynolds reported vernal pools throughout Connecticut are being mapped. When completed, the layer will be on [cteco.uconn.edu](http://cteco.uconn.edu) or Google CTECO.

## **b. Budget**

**Beaver Ledges** – Mrs. Reynolds reported the state is requiring the posting of a sign indicating the site was purchased through an Open Space Grant. Mrs. Reynolds stated the cost and installation of the sign is \$895.43 and it's unclear if there is sufficient funding to cover the entire cost (may be slightly short). Mrs. Reynolds reported she attempted to submit the invoice for the sign today, as today was the deadline to submit invoices, but Georgia Emanuel, Finance Coordinator, was not in; however, JoAnn Ricciardelli, First Selectman's Assistant, told her not to worry about it, as Lizz Milardo, First Selectman, would o.k. it.

Mrs. Reynolds passed around a photo of the sign. Mr. Bragoni asked the size of the sign (4 foot by 3 foot). Prior to the vote, Mr. Worthley suggested the wording "Preserving open space and watershed land for public use and enjoyment" on the sign be slightly modified to read "Preserving open space and watershed land for wildlife habitat protection, scenic beauty, and public enjoyment." Mrs. Reynolds will notify the Land Trust of this suggestion.

**MOTION:** Walter Bragoni moved to spend the remaining balance of the Conservation Commission's budget toward the purchase of the sign for Beaver Ledges. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried with Mrs. Reynolds abstaining.

**2017-2018 Budget** - Mrs. Reynolds reported with the approval of the town budget the Commission will have \$1,000 for 2017-2018.

## **c. Plan of Conservation of Development (POCD) – Update – 16 May 2017 Meeting**

**POCD Workshop** - Mrs. Reynolds reported there will be a Public Workshop, Thursday, 8 June 2017, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Fire Station #1, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum. Mrs. Reynolds also reported she likes the Horsley Witten Group and encouraged all Commissioners to attend the workshop.

Mrs. Reynolds reported she has received a couple of phone calls in regard to the tree clearing taking place on Killingworth Road for the Industrial Park for CGI Outdoor. A brief discussion followed in regard to spot zoning, better locations for a warehouse, and the need for Planning and Zoning to determine whether there's a need for industrial property; and if so, locating appropriate property.

**1. 16 May 2017 Meeting** – Topics discussed at the meeting included the following: 1) Rails to Trails – Essex Steam Train using the tracks and there's insufficient room to the side of the tracks for train and pedestrians; and 2) focusing on the river and potentially alienating residents who do not live on the river.

**2. Action Steps/Goals** - Mrs. Reynolds stated the three goals for the Conservation Commission are:

- 1) Easement Project
- 2) Education Program about Natural Resources (whether it be a talk, walk, or news article and all Commissioners should take part).
- 3) Planning and Zoning and other town boards/commissions/committees know to involve the Conservation Commission when natural resources, plantings, etc., are taking place.

## **7. New Business**

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

There was no written correspondence.

Mrs. Reynolds reported that Tom Odell, former editor of The Habitat, Chairman of the Westbrook Conservation Commission, and CACIWC member, is dealing with a health issue if anyone would like to reach out to him.

## **8. Land Use Dept. Report**

There was nothing new to report at this time.

## **9. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bunny Hall Batzner*

Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 28 June 2017.**