

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2017
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	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 7:06 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the 28 June 2017 agenda as submitted. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

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

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Old Business

a. Open Space

Beaver Ledges – Purchase of Sign – Mrs. Reynolds reported the remaining balance of the Commission's budget paid for all but \$25 of the sign for Beaver Ledges (expenditure approved by motion at 31 May 2017 meeting); and the Haddam Land Trust picked up the difference.

b. Budget

2017-2018 Budget - Mrs. Reynolds reported the new fiscal year begins 1 July 2017 and at that time the Commission will have \$1,000 to use over the course of the year.

Native Plant Conference - Mrs. Reynolds reported Donna Ellis, Senior Extension Educator, UConn, will conduct a Native Plant Conference in October, Mrs. Reynolds may ask for reimbursement to attend the

conference. Mr. Worthley asked the purpose of the conference. Mrs. Reynolds stated for planting and the benefits of using native species. Mr. Worthley suggested contacting Pete Picone, Wildlife Biologist, DEEP, as he can provide information pertaining to bird friendly habitat on larger lots. Mrs. Reynolds will ask Ms. Ellis about this.

Easement Mapping Project - Mrs. Reynolds reported Liz Glidden, Town Planner, had requested \$10,000 for this project and it has been approved. Mrs. Reynolds will contact Mrs. Glidden after 1 July and see how she would like to proceed with the project.

c. Plan of Conservation of Development (POCD) – Update

1. 8 June 2017 Workshop – Mrs. Reynolds reported the workshop was well attended and productive. Mrs. Reynolds explained there were a group of people concerned rail service will return. Mrs. Reynolds stated the Valley Railroad has a lease on the tracks and the rail right-of-way isn't wide enough to accommodate both the train and trails. Mrs. Reynolds also stated the Dept. of the Military would like to keep the freight line open in the event they need to get to Pratt and Whitney quickly. Mrs. Reynolds stated the workshop was presented by place – Higganum, Haddam Center, Tylerville, Haddam Neck, etc.; and that industrial was included in Rural Residential; however, after some discussion it is supposed to be moved (perhaps its own section).

2. 27 June 2017 Meeting – Mrs. Reynolds reported Horsley Witten Group will update the Action Plan by the end of the week and she will forward to all Commissioners. Mrs. Reynolds stated Mrs. Glidden wants governance of the POCD which there hasn't been in the past; and Mrs. Glidden will send an email to the Planners ListServ to see how other towns handle this. Mrs. Reynolds stated it was reported the Essex Stream Train Company has purchased the Lady Catherine cruise ship. A brief discussion followed. Mrs. Reynolds reported some of the residential houses along Route 81 (area of Dino's) are zoned commercial. Mrs. Batzner stated years ago P&Z (Paul Geraghty was chairman) discussed the possibility of changing the zoning to residential, but the property owners were opposed (increased taxes).

7. New Business

a. Communications/Publications/Correspondence

Mrs. Reynolds reported *The Habitat* was sent electronically; and she was in receipt of the *Connecticut Federation of Planning and Zoning Agencies Quarterly Newsletter*, a letter from Bruno Morasutti in regard to the Phil Goff Commemorative Rock, and a thank you note from Phil Goff for the Commission's donation to the commemorative rock.

Ms. Hanson asked who the current tree warden is. Mrs. Batzner stated Chris Corsa, Assistant Director of Public Works.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

There was nothing new to report at this time.

9. Adjournment

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

THE 26 JULY 2017 MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELED.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 30 August 2017.