

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 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 7:11 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to approve the 29 September 2021 agenda as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Correction to the 25 August 2021 minutes – page 2, Swan Hill, first sentence – change “the town” to “RSD17”.

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to approve the 25 August 2021 minutes as amended. 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

There was nothing new to report at this time.

b) Open Space

There was nothing new to report at this time.

c) Budget

There was nothing new to report at this time.

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

There was nothing new to report at this time.

7. New Business

a) Native Plant Ordinance

Mrs. Reynolds asked Mr. Worthley if he felt a native plant ordinance would be a good idea. Mr. Worthley stated he did not see anything wrong in having one. Mrs. Reynolds stated she would like see Higganum Cove planted with native species.

Mrs. Reynolds reported that Mrs. Batzner had emailed copies of ordinances from the Town of Newtown, CT and the City of Somerville, MA (copies on file in the Town Clerk's Office with the minutes) for review by the Commission. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that she had found ordinances from York County PA (they call it a Sustainable Landscaping Model Ordinance) and Scottsdale, AZ (has had an ordinance for years). Mrs. Reynolds will draft a sample ordinance and present to the Commission for their review and discussion at the October meeting.

b) Communications/Publications/Correspondence

No communications, publications, or correspondence had been received.

8. Announcements

Jim Puska, Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer – With sadness, it was announced that our fellow co-worker and friend, Jim Puska passed away on Saturday, 25 September 2021. Service details are not available at this time. Our condolences go out to Jim's wife, Randy, and his family.

Beaver Ledges Trail, Grand Opening and Walk – Mr. Worthley asked how the Haddam Land Trust's (HLT) walk was. Mrs. Reynolds stated the program went well – approximately 15 people attend. Trail is an easy walk out to the pond and the next stage will be to move the path out to the ledges. Mr. Worthley stated a vegetation inventory should be conducted to see if there is an opportunity for habitat enhancements. On a lighter note, Mrs. Reynolds reported there was a big "goose rumble" between two groups of Canadian geese that took place on the pond on the day of the walk.

River Days, Haddam Meadows – Saturday, 2 October 2021, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – Limited food options from town civic groups, car cruise night, live music, and fireworks after sunset. Rain Date: Sunday, 3 October 2021. Sponsored by the Haddam Lions Club and the Town of Haddam.

HLT Connecticut River Evening Paddle, Haddam Meadows - Saturday, 2 October 2021 – Mrs. Reynolds reported that the HLT will be holding their evening paddle to the island and will watch the fireworks from there. Life jackets are mandatory and must be worn and if possible, bring a whistle and flashlight. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that after some additional trail work done, Bill Cowan, HLT President, will hold a small barbeque at his home on Sunday, 3 October 2021.

9. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner reported: **P&Z** – Talking about an affordable housing plan. **Wetlands and ZBA** – Meetings have been cancelled. **EDC** – July, August, and September meetings cancelled. **Higganum Cove** – A new committee. First meeting was held Thursday, 9 September 2021, and future meetings will be held on the second Thursday of every month unless otherwise noted.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 27 October 2021, at the
Haddam Volunteer Fire Station 1, Community Hall, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum.**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING ONLY.