

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
WEDNESDAY, 29 JUNE 2016
APPROVED MINUTES
*Approved as Submitted at the 31 August 2016 Meeting***

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 called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

Add: Under Old Business – c. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the 29 June 2016 agenda as amended. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mardi Hanson moved to approve the 25 May 2016 minutes as submitted. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Old Business

a. Open Space

There was nothing new to report at this time.

b. Budget

Mrs. Reynolds reported she would like to attend the Connecticut Invasive Plant Work Group (CIPWG) Bi-Annual Conference in October and perhaps the Commission would be willing to cover the cost. The Commission agreed.

c. Plan of Conservation of Development (POCD)

Mrs. Reynolds reported there will be a joint meeting of the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission and the POCD Committee on Thursday, 21 July 2016, 7:30 p.m., 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam. At this meeting Horsley Witten, the consultant hired to assist with the POCD update, will be in attendance to discuss the process. Mrs. Reynolds invited all Commissioners, if available, to attend.

7. New Business

a. Communications/Publications/Correspondence

There was no correspondence to review.

Inventory of Ash Trees - Mr. Worthley asked whether it would be appropriate to conduct some sort of inventory of ash trees that are along the road sides in town. Mrs. Reynolds stated the joint Forest Pest Outreach Program between UConn and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is trying to do something similar. Mrs. Reynolds reported she had participated in the project in 2014; however, in 2015 and 2016 she hired someone to do the work; and that Katharine Dugas, Agricultural Research Assistant III, from the Agricultural Experiment Station, would like this individual to go to the various conservation commissions throughout the state to discuss the project. Mrs. Reynolds believes an ash inventory would be very appropriate; and asked if this would be just along the roads or in general. Mr. Worthley stated just along the roads such as trees that potentially present a hazard or an expense for the town to deal with. Mr. Worthley asked for clarification in regard to Mrs. Reynolds comment about hiring someone (to do the survey or the outreach). Mrs. Reynolds stated the person will do the outreach. Mr. Worthley reported there is a protocol coming out of the Urban Forestry Office (state level) that will provide funding to three pilot towns to do something like this (towns probably already selected); however, if he can obtain the procedure used, the Commission may be able to do the work. Mr. Worthley stated this would be a good job for an intern. A brief discussion followed in regard to the Commission members making notes as they travel along the roads.

Gypsy Moth Infestation - A brief discussion followed in regard to the Gypsy Moth damage to trees in the area. Mrs. Reynolds stated the hard woods should leaf out again unless they've been stressed. Mr. Worthley stated most of them will refoliate and noted that if there had been rain, the defoliation wouldn't have been so bad.

Roadside Tree and Forest Management Program - A brief discussion followed in regard to the town continuing to sell logs as trees are taken down; the change in the tree warden's position; teaching tree crews to cut logs that are marketable so trees in the public right-of-way could be salvaged for logs of value and sold on the market and money go to the town (the idea was the funds could be used for a tree survey or planting new trees or something similar as opposed to going into the general fund).

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner reported on the following: **P&Z** – Detached accessory apartment for property known as 5 Evergreen Road with access off Beaver Meadow Road - public hearing held/closed 6/21/2016, no decision made, and meeting continued to 7/21/2016. Their 7/7/2016 meeting canceled. **EDC** – Mike Fortuna submitted his resignation from the commission. **Wetlands** – June meeting canceled. **Charter Revision** – Meets once a month and they're moving along. Minutes can be found on the town's website under Quick Links – Boards & Commissions - Board of Selectmen. **ZBA** – June meeting canceled.

9. Announcements

Town Offices Closed, Monday, 4 July 2016 – Mrs. Reynolds reported all town offices will be closed in observance of the 4th of July holiday.

Farmers' Market Manager's Position - Mrs. Reynolds announced this will be her last year as the Farmers' Market manager. Mrs. Reynolds reported that attendance was not good last year and has not

picked up this year; noting that the first two markets of this season were well attended, but once Haddam Elementary School was out, attendance dropped. Mrs. Batzner asked if anyone had expressed interest in the position. Mrs. Reynolds stated she hasn't asked anyone yet. A brief discussion followed in regard to the increased number of farmers' markets that have opened throughout the area thus limiting the inventory the vendors have and the vendors attending those markets where visitor numbers are higher, and the potential of the Fall Weekend event, scheduled for 1-2 October and sponsored by the Haddam and East Haddam EDCs, helping with the visitor count.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 27 July 2016.