

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ONLINE VIA GOTOMEETING
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2020
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
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 7:04 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 27 May 2020 agenda as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

The Commission agreed to table the approval of the 29 April 2020 minutes.

5. Public Comments

There were no comments from those in attendance.

6. Old Business

a) Higganum Center Trails/Walking Path

Jason Lonergan, Chairman, Haddam Park and Recreation Commission, stated he was interested in what the Commission had to say regarding the trails/walking path as Park and Rec has had discussion pertaining to walking trails around the existing parks at the Brickyard and Jail Hill as well as at Higganum Cove. Mrs. Reynolds gave an overview of what of the Commission had previously discussed in the past as well as Town Planner Bill Warner's input. Mr. Lonergan stated Park and Rec has some seed money for some landscaping, designing, architecture, and planning for walking trails and some guests to their meetings have expressed interest in trying to formalize and expand those trails that currently exist. Mrs. Reynolds noted that Swan Hill is in the area of Brickyard.

Mr. Lonergan stated he's curious about where responsibilities lie with other commissions and has discussed this with Mr. Warner; and perhaps at some point all could meet to discuss the matter. Mrs. Reynolds stated she has always been a proponent of passive recreation, but noted there are issues when opening trails – used by four wheelers who compromise integrity the trails. Mr. Lonergan stated there was discussion about a semi-handicapped accessible trail at Great Hill (Jail Hill).

Mrs. Reynolds informed Mr. Lonergan that she is also a board member of the Haddam Land Trust (HLT). Mrs. Reynolds reported the trails at Swan Hill are in o.k. shape and that during a recent survey of the property, HLT found out that two parts of the trail are on private landowners property (not for very long and HLT will have to deal with that). Mrs. Reynolds stated because the trails are rather wide on the flat area where the trails haven't been mapped yet there is a lot of RV activity.

Mrs. Reynolds briefly discussed HLT being approached in regard to the use of the trails by mountain bikers; and asked Mr. Lonergan if P&R has discussed mountain biking at all. Mr. Lonergan stated not really, Park and Rec is more about youth sports, but are trying to branch out and have discussed what could be done at the Cove. Mrs. Reynolds stated the prior administration had stated they would give the Cove to HLT, but it doesn't seem as if Mr. Warner would like that to happen. Mr. Lonergan stated the town should retain and maintain key properties with economic and recreational drivers. Mrs. Reynolds stated it would be good to have a kayak launch at the Cove.

Mr. Lonergan briefly explained the difference between Haddam Park and Rec Commission –maintain the facilities and HK Park and Rec Authority – oversees the Park and Rec Dept. which is all the programs. Mr. Lonergan stated Haddam Park and Rec Commission would like to expand by helping out with walking trails and anything else.

b) Open Space

High Street Property – Formerly Nancy Planeta's and Phil Goff's Property - Mrs. Reynolds reported she informed Bill Cowan, President, HLT, that the property has been split and that HLT's attorney should be advised of the situation.

c) Budget

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 – Donation to Food Bank – Discussion – Mrs. Reynolds reported she had spoken to Barbara Bertrand, Finance Director, and Bob McGarry, First Selectman, regarding the Commission donating the remaining balance of their budget to the Haddam Food Bank in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Bertrand and Mr. McGarry stated town funds cannot be donated to the Food Bank as it is not related to conservation duties. A brief discussion followed in regard to previous donations (all conservation related). Ms. Hanson thanked Mrs. Reynolds for trying.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 – Mrs. Reynolds stated she believes the Commission's budget has been approved.

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

Mrs. Reynolds reported the Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee (PIC) met on Wednesday, 20 May 2020, to discuss how to proceed in reporting in the future and decided to submit a report every other year. Mrs. Reynolds stated Joe Centofanti, Chairman, BOF, and representative to PIC, has not attended a PIC meeting and that Peter Baird, BOF Alternate, has been asked if he would like to be the representative and has stated yes.

Mrs. Reynolds asked Mr. Lonergan if he, as Park and Rec chairman, had been approached regarding Park and Rec's report. Mr. Lonergan stated he didn't believe so, but noted that Park and Rec has been gearing their activities towards the items highlighted in the POCD. Mrs. Reynolds stated she would check to see who their liaison is.

7. New Business

a) Communications/Publications/Correspondence

No communications, publications, or correspondence was received.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner reported all commissions/boards have been meeting via GoToMeeting.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Mardi Hanson motioned to adjourn. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 25 June 2020.