

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
ONLINE VIA GOTOMEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2020  
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

**ATTENDANCE**

A	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
X	Mardi Hanson-d'Alessandro (Arrived 7:20 p.m.)
X	Gail Reynolds, Chairman
A	Tom Worthley
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**DUE TO THANKSGIVING, THE COMMISSION MET ONE WEEK EARLY.**

**1. Call to Order**

Mrs. Reynolds, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**2. Attendance**

Attendance was taken.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 18 November 2020 agenda as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 26 August 2020 minutes as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 28 October 2020 minutes as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

**Recording Clerk's Note:** The 30 September 2020 meeting was cancelled.

**5. Public Comments**

Maurice Adams voiced concern over the town not putting money into sidewalks when connectivity was the number one point at the charrettes held in November 2019 and yet the town is putting money into the purchase of the Rossi property. Mr. Adams made a point of the lack of a sidewalk from Haddam Elementary School (HES) down to the Center. Ms. Hanson stated this may be an EDC matter. Mr. Adams reported that Connecticut Main Street Center advocates for small communities to have connectivity within them so people will walk rather than drive. Ms. Hanson stated she understands Mr. Adams concern and noted that the connections are a bit disjoint; however, everyone needs to remember both routes (154 and 81) are state roads. Mr. Adams stated he believes the most powerful statement is the Higginum Center Study as prepared by Mullin and Associates, December 30, 2019.

## **6. Old Business**

### **a) Higganum Center Trails/Walking Path**

**The Nancy L. Planeta Preserve, High Street** – Mrs. Reynolds reported the Haddam Land Trust (HLT) now owns the 19.03 acres and this will help with connectivity as the HLT owns the ridge that's part of the Higganum Dike. Mrs. Reynolds stated the HLT will be contacting the owner of a land locked parcel in the area to see if there's interest in selling. If so, this would allow connectivity from High Street all the way through the State Forest (nice for a walking trail).

**Swan Hill** – Mrs. Reynolds reported the HLT had the property surveyed and it revealed that part of the existing trail creeps onto neighboring properties which will need to be addressed.

**Sidewalks** – Ms. Hanson stated she remembers when the sidewalks were constructed and asked if this might be a matter for Public Works. Mrs. Reynolds stated she believes trails would be a Conservation Commission matter, but not sidewalks; and if sidewalks were being installed, it might be an EDC issue. Discussion followed in regard to Mike Fortuna and Dave Platt, both former EDC members, being very involved in the Streetscape project. Mrs. Batzner suggested speaking to Mr. Warner as he had obtained a Connectivity grant for the replacement/repair of the Haddam Center sidewalks as well as work he has done with the new sidewalks in Tylerville. Mrs. Batzner stated that Kate Anderson, EDC chairman, had mentioned reconnecting with Kim Parsons-Whitaker, Connecticut Main Street Center, who had made a presentation back in February. Mrs. Reynolds stated it was good for Mr. Adams to speak to the Commission regarding the matter and the Commission will start the New Year off right. Mrs. Reynolds will also contact Jason Lonergan, chairman, Park and Recreation Commission, regarding this matter.

### **b) Open Space**

**Former Gilkinson Property, Park Road - John and Pattie Pytlik, Owners** – Mrs. Reynolds reported the HLT has been in discussions with the Pytlaks in regard to the purchase of the 400 acre parcel – conservation easement to the Humane Society of the United States is on the parcel as well as two houses. The Humane Society is to be contacted to see if they would like to swap out the two houses.

**The Nancy L. Planeta Preserve, High Street** - Mrs. Reynolds reported the HLT will be holding a small dedication ceremony and the installation of a sign on Saturday, 21 November 2020, 1:00 p.m., to recognize the donation of the parcel.

### **c) Budget**

Mrs. Reynolds reported there is \$1,000 in the Conservation Activities line item.

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

Mrs. Reynolds reported the Commission lost momentum with this project and will begin to move forward with it again beginning in January. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that the POCD Implementation Committee (PIC) has not met.

## **7. New Business**

### **a) Communications/Publications/Correspondence**

No communications, publications, or correspondence was received.

**CT River Coastal Conservation District Meeting, Thursday, 19 November 2020** – Mrs. Reynolds reported this meeting will be online and they will be having a discussion pertaining to the aquatic invasive, Hydrilla, which is prevalent in the Connecticut River.

**December Meeting** – Due to the holiday season, no meeting is scheduled.

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

**Meetings** - A brief discussion followed in regard to how meetings are being handled. P&Z, EDC, and ZBA have had in-person meetings; however, in light of the increase in COVID-19 cases, EDC and ZBA will be going back to fully remote meetings and P&Z may be doing the same. Conservation and Wetlands will remain fully remote.

**Higganum Cove** - Mrs. Batzner reported Bill Warner, Town Planner, had put out a Request for Bids for the Clearing of Brush and Maintenance (to be opened Friday, 20 Nov 2020) and that a site walk was held today (Wednesday, 18 Nov 2020).

**Swing Bridge Walkway Grant** – Mrs. Batzner reported the town did not receive the grant.

## **9. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bunny Hall Batzner*

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Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 27 January 2021.**