

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM  
WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2020  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
*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 7:00 p.m.

**2. Attendance**

Attendance was taken.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 29 January 2020 agenda as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 20 November 2019 minutes as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Public Comment**

There was no one from the public present.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Open Space**

**Shopboard Rock and Higganum Cove** - Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Haddam Land Trust (HLT) is still waiting to hear from the Board of Selectmen (BOS) regarding the transfer of Shopboard Rock and Higganum Cove. (**Recording Clerk's Note:** P&Z approved to issue an affirmative Connecticut General Statute Section 8-24 Report to transfer nine acres from the Town to HLT as permanent open space – Boulder Dell Road (Shopboard Rock) adjacent to Swan Hill Road property on 19 September 2019. A quick review of the BOS minutes posted online shows no discussion pertaining to this matter.)

**Property of Nancy Planeta, High Street** – Mrs. Reynolds reported the HLT had been contacted by a cousin of Nancy Planeta about donating a portion of the property. Bill Cowan spoke to the cousin and although the entire family is not in agreement, she was inquiring as to what would be needed to be done to make the donation as she believes she can get the others to agree.

## **b. Budget**

**2020-2021 Budget** – Mrs. Reynolds reported that as discussed in November, she did request \$1,000 for the Commission's operating budget as well as funding for the Salmon River Watershed.

## **c. POCD – Conservation Action Items – Discussion Continued – Commission Report**

**90 Day Action Plan** - Mrs. Reynolds asked Mrs. Batzner about the 90 Day Action Plan. Mrs. Batzner stated that is part of the Higganum Center Workshops.

**Higganum Center Walking Path** - Mrs. Reynolds reported that she, Mr. Cowan, HLT, Bill Warner, Town Planner, met in regard to the trails around Higganum Center and the meeting went well. A brief discussion followed in regard to the work Eric Boardman, a student intern, had done during the summer of 2008 – mapping, pictures, additional paperwork, and video from the presentation. Mrs. Batzner will look to see if there is any documentation with the 2008 minutes.

**Conservation Action Items** – A brief discussion followed in regard to whether any thought had been given to which Action Items a Commissioner would like to take on.

**Membership** – Mrs. Reynolds reported that she had spoken to Bob McGarry, First Selectman, in regard to the need for additional members. Mrs. Reynolds stated she had discussed this matter previously with the former first selectman, who thought there may be some synergy with the Sustainability Committee, but they seem to have waned. Ms. Hanson stated the Commission will continue to work on membership.

**PIC – Annual Report** - Mrs. Reynolds reported that PIC had met in December and January to try to compile their annual report, that it's been drafted, and will be presented to P&Z, Thursday, 6 February 2020, Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam.

## **d. CACIWC 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting/Environmental Conference, Saturday, 23 November 2019, Red Lion Hotel, Cromwell – Follow Up**

Mrs. Reynolds reported the conference was good, that the new DEEP commissioner addressed attendees, that she had attended workshops pertaining to water quality, and that she staffed a table for the Botanical Society.

## **e. Higganum Center Charrette – Follow Up**

Mrs. Reynolds reported she did attend the presentation and it was well attended. Ms. Hanson stated it's a part of the process and interest waxes and wanes, but from what she's heard it is coming along. A brief discussion followed in regard to residents opinions especially in regard to the relocation of Public Works. Mrs. Batzner stated the workshop report can be found on the town's website - [www.haddam.org](http://www.haddam.org), home page, bottom right under News, click Higganum Center Final Report.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Higganum Center Trails**

Mrs. Reynolds stated she felt Eric Boardman had provided a written report, but is unable to locate it. Mrs. Batzner will look in the minutes to see if she has anything.

Mrs. Reynolds reported that some residents attended an HLT meeting to talk about Swan Hill being used for mountain biking. Mrs. Reynolds stated Mr. Cowan informed the residents that certain matters would need to be looked into and a decision was not made at the meeting. Mrs. Reynolds also stated that Bob McGarry, First Selectman, was in attendance as well; and afterwards, had indicated the property belongs to HLT who can make its own decision. A brief discussion followed in regard to the wildlife and plant life at Swan Hill, that hiking and mountain biking trails do not coexist, how mountain bikes can tear up the terrain, and the HLT's mission statement.

## **b. Communications/Publications/Correspondence**

There were no communications, publications or correspondence at this time.

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

Mrs. Batzner reported on the following: **EDC** – January meeting was a combination regular business meeting as well as Higganum Farmers' Market Thinktank. Meeting was well attended and a number of items discussed. Ms. Hanson asked how the vote went in regard to which day to hold the market. Mrs. Reynolds stated Fridays. A brief discussion followed. **P&Z** – Next meeting is Thursday, 6 February 2020, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m. **Public Information Meeting, Tylerville Sidewalks** - Thursday, 27 February 2020, Town Hall, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

## **9. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bunny Hall Batzner*

Bunny Hall Batzner  
Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 26 February 2020.**