

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ONLINE VIA GOTOMEETING
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2020
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
X	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 7:06 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to approve the 26 August 2020 agenda as submitted. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to approve the 24 June 2020 minutes as submitted. Mardi Hanson 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

Former Gilkinson Property, Park Road - John and Pattie Pytlik, Owners – Mrs. Reynolds reported she had received a phone call from Pattie Pytlik as to whether or not the Haddam Land Trust's (HLT) would be interested in their 400 acre parcel – conservation easement to the Humane Society of the United States is on the parcel as well as two houses. Mrs. Reynolds told Mrs. Pytlik that HLT would be interested. A copy of the easement needs to be obtained. Mrs. Pytlik has offered the HLT the ability to view the parcel.

Five Acre Parcel, Morris Hubbard Road - Norma Burr, Owner - Mrs. Reynolds reported Norma Burr would like to donate a five acre parcel that she owns to the town. Ms. Burr's parcel is adjacent to a parcel that the HLT owns towards the end of Morris Hubbard Road.

Higganum Cove and Shopboard Rock – Mrs. Reynolds reported there have been no changes to date in regard to these two parcels.

c) Budget

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

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

RiverCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (RPCOD) – Mrs. Reynolds reported there was a meeting held for Haddam residents only regarding this matter. Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Worthley were in attendance. Both felt the meeting went well - nothing presented in terms of specifics just an overview. Unclear if the meeting had been recorded. (**Recording Clerk's Note:** If you go to rivercog.org, click Regional Plan of Conservation and Development, it will take to another page where you will click [presentation and meeting videos and plan materials](#), and that will take you to a page listing all that is available pertaining to this topic.)

e) Reappointments – Hanson and Reynolds

Mrs. Reynolds thanked Ms. Hanson for her years on the Commission. Both Mrs. Reynolds and Ms. Hanson are long time members of the Commission. Based on the 13 July 2020 Board of Selectmen's minutes, both Mrs. Reynolds and Ms. Hanson were reappointed for a three year term. No letters of reappointment have been received by Ms. Hanson or Mrs. Reynolds.

7. New Business

a) Communications/Publications/Correspondence

No communications, publications, or correspondence was received.

Farmers' Market – Being held every Friday, HES, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Kristy Benson is the new market master. A brief discussion followed in regard to the vendors and the food trucks!

U.S. Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Proposal - Mr. Worthley reported he's planning to submit a proposal to the U.S. Forest Service under their 2021 Landscape Scale Restoration RFP. Mr. Worthley stated a large piece of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) forest subgroup draft report speaks in regard to protecting and preserving core forest areas. In the subgroup, there's a very strong pro-forestation contingent - people who want to lock up the forest and not allow anything to happen (let nature take its course) and the strategy these days is to use climate change and carbon storage as an excuse for that. They're looking at the core forest analysis done a few years ago and thinking of trying to target those areas to turn them into preserves. Mr. Worthley stated he would like to get out ahead of this and do some landscape scale planning using the core forest as a center piece where there are multiple types of ownership – private, state, land trust – in various areas across the state. Mr. Worthley also stated he would like to include in each of these pilot projects local commissioners or elected officials or whoever is interested – on a technical forestry team to work on these plans. Mr. Worthley stated he would not know if the proposal is successful or not until February or March 2021; and that letters of support are expected to be filed when the application is submitted in September.

Mr. Worthley asked Mrs. Reynolds if she would be willing to sign a letter of support for the proposal as chairman of the Commission. Mrs. Reynolds stated yes. Mr. Worthley will provide Mrs. Reynolds with a copy of the proposal and a draft example of a support letter. Mrs. Reynolds asked if the letter should be returned to Mr. Worthley with Mr. Worthley responding yes. Mrs. Reynolds asked Mr. Worthley if a letter of support from the HLT would be helpful. Mr. Worthley stated if the HLT would like to, it would be appreciated.

Mr. Worthley stated in his comments on the draft report he suggested that he would be willing to volunteer to do one of these types of projects centered on the properties right here in Haddam as there is an 800 acre core forest with multiple ownerships. A brief discussion followed.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Wetlands - Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Wetlands Commission is still dealing with a matter on 81 Arkay Drive and that she has recused herself from this matter. **P&Z** - Mrs. Batzner reported there will be an in person meeting/hearing on Thursday, 3 September 2020, 7:00 p.m., Haddam Elementary School - Cafeteria, regarding a request for a special permit to allow for the demolition of a residential structure (historic), 140 Dublin Hill Road.

9. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 30 September 2020.