

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2017
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

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| X | Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman |
| X | Ian Gibson |
| X | Mardi Hanson-d'Alessandro |
| X | Gail Reynolds, Chairman |
| X | Tom Worthley |
| X | Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk |
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1. Call to Order

Mrs. Reynolds, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Mardi Hanson moved to approve the 29 November 2017 agenda as submitted. Ian Gibson second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the 27 September 2017 minutes as submitted. Walter Bragoni second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Old Business

a. Open Space

Higganum Cove – Mrs. Reynolds reported the intent, as far as she knows it, is to give the land to the Haddam Land Trust; and Bill Cowan, President, Haddam Land Trust, met with Liz Glidden, Town Planner, and Lizz Milardo, First Selectman, in October regarding this matter. Mrs. Reynolds stated Mrs. Milardo will check with the town attorney regarding this transfer as the town does not own the property. Mrs. Reynolds also stated the Land Trust Board voted to accept the property and the sale will not be until January.

Mr. Gibson asked for clarification that the property will not be auctioned off. Mrs. Reynolds stated the town is merely going through the motions; however, there are a number of conditions concerning the property – repaying the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the land having to remain in conservation, etc. Mr. Worthley asked if the Land Trust would have to pay back any of the costs. Mrs. Reynolds stated no.

Mr. Worthley talked about this matter being a positive aspect (exposure) for the Land Trust. Mr. Worthley and Mr. Gibson indicated they would be willing to volunteer some time to help maintain the site. A brief discussion followed in regard to the beauty of the site with all the partridge pea and other wildflowers. Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Gibson stated there's a need to educate people as well as keeping the edges of the property maintained.

Easement Mapping Project – Mrs. Reynolds reported she hasn't spoken to Liz Glidden, Town Planner, in regard to this project, but will try to do so this month.

b. Budget

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 – Mrs. Reynolds reported she had received an email from Barbara Bertrand, Finance Director, dated 11/28/2017, in regard to the Commission's budget request for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. A brief discussion followed in regard to what the Commission has been approved for and used in the past; the Salmon River Watershed being a part of the Commission's budget; and how much to ask for. Mrs. Reynolds stated she would like to fund each line item - Conservation Activities and the Salmon River Watershed - with \$1,000 each. Mr. Worthley suggested breaking out reimbursements for education.

1. Native Plant and Pollinators Conference – Mrs. Reynolds reported she attended the conference, that there were five (5) lectures throughout the day (no pick and choose), and that she preferred the lectures given by faculty. A brief discussion followed in regard to presenters such as David Wagner, Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, who talked about flowers and which butterflies and moths are attracted to them, and Jessica Lubell, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, who has a graduate student, Jacob Ricker, who is testing various varieties of wild native plants to see which ones the pollinators like (actually counts and identifies all of the pollinators).

7. New Business

a. Communications/Publications/Correspondence

The Habitat – Mrs. Reynolds reported all Commissioners should have received an electronic copy of the latest edition of *The Habitat*. Mrs. Reynolds was in receipt of a hard copy of *The Habitat*.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner reported on the following: **P&Z** – approved an in-law apartment, 90 Christian Hill Road, at their October meeting and will hold two public hearings on Thursday, 7 December 2017, in regard to the POCD and opting out of Temporary Health Care Structures. **ZBA** – Thursday, 30 November 2017, meeting/hearing has been canceled. Mrs. Glidden and the applicant were able to work out a resolution. Application was withdrawn. **Wetlands** – meetings have been canceled. **EDC** – two members recently resigned while two new members have recently been appointed.

Mrs. Reynolds asked if a plan has been submitted for "Falcon Crest Specialty Homes" on Route 81 (the former Rocco subdivision). Mrs. Batzner stated she was unaware of anything. Ms. Hanson stated there is always a man sitting in a truck at the end of the road.

9. Announcements

a) POCD – Public Hearing, Thursday, 7 December 2017, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam. This is a P&Z hearing. Mrs. Reynolds stated she will try to attend. Mr. Worthley stated he will not be able to attend.

b) Third Annual Tree Lighting in Tylerville – Saturday, 2 December 2017, 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Santa, hot dogs/hamburgers/hot chocolate, and a bonfire! Park at Tony's Package Store parking lot only.

c) Conservation Commission – No December meeting scheduled. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 31 January 2018.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to adjourn. Ian Gibson second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 31 January 2018.