

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2017
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
A	Ian Gibson
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 7:03 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Mardi Hanson moved to approve the 27 September 2017 agenda as submitted. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the 30 August 2017 minutes as submitted. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Old Business

a. Open Space

Easement Mapping Project – Mrs. Reynolds reported she hadn't gotten back to Liz Glidden, Town Planner, in regard to the \$10,000 in the budget to hire Horsley Witten to complete the project. This project may be on hold due to the lack of a State budget.

b. Budget

1. Native Plant Conference – Vote on Reimbursement of Conference Fee – Mrs. Reynolds reported she did sign up for the conference and the registration fee was \$50.

MOTION: Mardi Hanson moved to approve that the fee to attend the Native Plant Conference on 19 October 2017, in Storrs, is reimbursed from the Conservation Commission budget. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Worthley asked if the Native Plant Conference is an alternative to an Invasive Plant Conference. Mrs. Reynolds stated the conference is in regard to native plants and pollinators (a Donna Ellis and Vickie Wallace conference). Mrs. Reynolds also stated these conferences alternate every other year. A brief discussion followed

Mr. Worthley reported he was a part of a news clip on WNBC in regard to Barberry control (a more extended clip on their website). Mr. Worthley stated the news outlet discovered Scott Williams, scientist, Agricultural Experiment Station, who did the protocols for live trapping for a mouse and tick study. Mrs. Reynolds stated the more publicity that can be achieved for this study, the better as it would be an incentive for people to remove Barberry. Mr. Worthley noted there is someone within the State Legislature who wants to ban the sale of Barberry. Ms. Hanson asked if pulling Barberry up by the roots is adequate for removal. Mr. Worthley stated yes, but the two issues regarding that method are there's bare soil and what else will be attracted to that spot, unless you have something native to plant in the spot immediately. Mr. Worthley stated cutting Barberry is not enough to get rid of it, you either have to cut and spray with a bit of herbicide or flame it. The Commission discussed Burning Bush, another non-native plant.

2. CACIWC Membership - Mrs. Reynolds reported she had checked with Mrs. Glidden to see if the membership had been submitted; however, due to the lack of a State budget, certain Town budget items cannot be submitted at this time. Mr. Worthley stated all towns are probably in the same situation.

Long Range Capital Plan (LRCP) – Mrs. Reynolds reported she received paperwork from the Board of Finance (BOF) pertaining to the LRCP; and that she doesn't believe the Commission has anything coming up at this time to submit. Mr. Worthley stated from a capital improvement standpoint what does the Commission really need.

c. Plan of Conservation of Development (POCD) – Update

1. 20 September 2017 Board of Selectmen (BOS) Public Hearing – Mrs. Reynolds reported she was unable to attend due to a conflict. Mrs. Batzner reported she did not attend, but did see an unofficial blurb that the BOS approved the draft document to move on to P&Z for their approval. Mrs. Reynolds stated a lot of good work went into drafting the document and that Mr. Bull was a good chairman. Mrs. Batzner agreed and complimented the committee as well as the consultant.

7. New Business

a. Communications/Publications/Correspondence

Land Use Department – Higganum Pharmacy – Mrs. Reynolds reported after last month's Conservation meeting, she went back to read the Architectural Review Committee's (ARC) 24 August 2017 minutes pertaining to the Higganum Pharmacy's proposed addition. Mrs. Reynolds talked about the proposed planting plan, in particular the Bradford pears, which are on the invasive watch list in CT as well as other states. Mrs. Reynolds stated she had sent a note to Mrs. Glidden providing her with this information and recommended another species of tree. In the interim, Mrs. Glidden has informed Mrs. Reynolds that the planting plan has been changed and the applicant is proposing Shadbush, which is fine.

Mr. Worthley briefly discussed a large Shadbush tree and an American chestnut tree located in the state. Mr. Worthley also informed the Commission about a study conducted several years ago where various types of nuts (American chestnuts, acorns, hickory, etc.) that were eaten by turkeys, squirrels, mice, deer, etc., were put out as choices in a controlled environment for each one of these animals and to a species they all went for the chestnuts first. Mr. Worthley noted these animals have never seen an American chestnut, but instinctively they knew this was their favorite food.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner gave a brief report – **P&Z, Wetlands, and ZBA** have been quiet; whereas, **Conservation** and **EDC** have been busy.

POCD Implementation Committee (PIC) - Mrs. Reynolds stated she's not sure she would like to be a part of the PIC; and asked if anyone would like to consider doing so, to please let her know.

9. Announcements

a) Haunted House/Graveyard, Friday-Saturday, 27-28 October 2017, Community Center, 6:00-9:00 p.m. – Mrs. Reynolds stated Chuck Cook, who is donating his decorations and time, is looking for volunteers to assist with set up/clean up. Mrs. Batzner stated EDC is sponsoring this event and EDC members will be present.

(Recording Clerk's Note: The time frame was inaccurately reported as being a three day event. The flier for this event shows it as being a two day event as indicated above.)

b) Trunk or Treat, Saturday, 28 October 2017, Community Center, 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Set up is at 5:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bunny Hall Batzner
Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 25 October 2017.