

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441  
WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2024  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

**ATTENDANCE**

A	Barbara Fernandez
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 7:04 p.m.

**2. Attendance**

Attendance was taken.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Tom Worthley motioned to approve the 28 February 2024 agenda as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Tabled.

**5. Public Comments**

There was no one from the public present.

**6. Old Business**

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

Mrs. Reynolds had nothing new to report at this time.

**b) Open Space**

**Gilkinson Property** - Mrs. Reynolds reported this parcel is currently owned by the Pytliks' and they had approached the Haddam Land Trust (HLT) to purchase the parcel. Mrs. Reynolds stated there is a conservation easement on the parcel held by the Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society has decided they do not want to hold the easement any longer and will be donating that easement to the HLT as well as an endowment. Mrs. Reynolds stated Bill Cowan, President, HLT, is working out this matter.

Mr. Worthley commented that there is a little bit of irony involved in this matter as Mr. Wilkinson did not want anything to do with Haddam or the HLT. Mr. Worthley stated he had walked the parcel, as part of the Extension Service, some years back and has photos of the property. Mrs. Reynolds reported that the easement states no forest management except for firewood cutting by people who live in the houses and the houses are actually included in the easement property. The HLT would not be owners, they would just be checking to make sure on the condition.

Mr. Worthley stated it would be interesting to participate in an easement documentation report process with the Gilkinson parcel. Mr. Worthley stated he may have some old notes on the parcel and will look for them.

**c) Budget**

Mrs. Reynolds reported she had received an email from the town regarding the budget.

**d) POCD – Conservation Action Items – Discussion**

Mrs. Reynolds had nothing new to report at this time.

**e) Native Plant Ordinance – Review Draft Language – Update**

There was nothing new to report at this time.

**f) Swan Hill – Management Plan – Student Fellow - Update**

Mr. Worthley had nothing new to report at this time.

**g) Connecticut Urban Forestry Grant**

Mr. Worthley reported this matter is on hold until the results of the 5 March 2024 referendum vote on the Rossi property are known. They presented a variety of options for the playground at HES which included tree planting.

**h) Higganum Cove**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that she would like to make a picture mockup of what she thinks should be planted and will give it to Dorothy Gillespie, Cove Committee member. Mrs. Reynolds discussed the Cove Committee's efforts to preserve the parcel and believes the best way to do so would be to give a conservation easement to a conservation organization (does not have to be the HLT) such as the Lower Connecticut River Land Trust will probably be starting to accepting easements.

**i) Clark Creek Wildlife Management Area – DEEP Forestry Mowing Project**

Mrs. Reynolds will follow up on contacting DEEP as to when this project will be taking place and report back to the Commission.

**j) Saraceno Preserve – Follow Up**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that Tom Barnett attended the February meeting of the HLT, and his comments were well received. When the weather gets nicer, the HLT will be in touch with Mr. Barnett.

**7. New Business**

**a) Communications/Publications/Correspondence**

**Connecticut Urban Forest Council Annual Conference, Thursday, 29 February 2024** – Mr. Worthley will be attending. **Connecticut Land Conservation Council Annual Conference, Saturday, 23 March 2024** – Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Worthley will be attending. Mr. Worthley spoke in regard to possibly conducting a Forest Forum in the fall. Discussion followed in regard to the use of Avenza maps, Q GIS, and Arc Pro. **Connecticut River Conservancy** – Correspondence was received. Mrs. Reynolds stated the Conservancy conducted a webinar regarding the geologic history of the Connecticut River. Mrs.

Reynolds also stated the program was recorded and can provide the link if interested. **Compost Conference, Thursday, 14 March 2024** – Mrs. Reynolds reported this free conference will be held at Connecticut College.

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

Mrs. Batzner reported the Rossi property has been the center of attention. The referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, 5 March 2024.

#### **9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Tom Worthley motioned to adjourn. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bunny Hall Batzner*  
Bunny Hall Batzner  
Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 27 March 2024.**