

**TOWN OF HADDAM
HIGGANUM COVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
ROSSI PARKING LOT
ON DEPOT ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
THURSDAY, 30 MARCH 2023
APPROVED MINUTES**

Approved as Submitted with Attachments at the 13 April 2023 Meeting

ATTENDANCE

X	Peter Baird (5:15 p.m.)
X	Sue DeCarli
X	Dorothy Gillespie
X	Tim McCane
X	Ed Schwing, Chairman
A	Tim Teran
X	Dante Ursini
X	Bill Warner, AICP, Town Planner
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

Guest: Lisa Malloy, Director, Haddam Historical Society.

Mr. Schwing, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the 10 November 2022 and 9 February 2023 minutes was tabled.

2. Public Comments

There was no public present.

3. Site Walk

Mr. Warner reported that the idea is to create a streetscape connecting the Cove to the Center and that all projects will take a couple of years. As the Committee began walking from the Rossi parking lot down Depot Road, Mr. Warner stated he would like to see a 10 foot wide pathway (painted on the pavement) for both pedestrians and bicyclists. The Committee stopped by the culvert where they discussed the potential for a pedestrian bridge. Mr. Warner stated the town's engineer reviewed the site and a pre-fabricated bridge would cost \$57,000. Discussion followed regarding the use of state funds v. local funds.

The Committee continued to the Cove where they reviewed the recent work that had taken place along the upper ruins trail, the posting of signage on the gate, and the posting of mapping and the Master Plan on the Information Board at the entrance to the Cove. Mr. Warner briefly discussed the Rockfall Grant for the pollinator garden. Mrs. Gillespie spoke in regard to Homegrown National Park (native plants for the area). Mrs. Malloy reviewed a site map showing where the old factory was located and how the stonewall helped to funnel the water.

Mrs. Malloy noted that the historical walk will take place on Sunday, 16 April 2023, 2:00 p.m. All Committee members are expected to assist with this event.

The Committee continued down into the Cove and reviewed the areas for the split rail fence (along the steep embankment and one of the areas where the new steps were installed along the upper ruins

pathway), the area for the directional sign (at the split of Nosal Road and pathway leading down toward the lower foundations; placards ordered), where tree removal had taken place (opened up the area nicely), and where Mr. Ursini had removed some new graffiti.

The Committee discussed the construction of the overlook (area near water tower foundations) – going out approximately 20 feet from Nosal Road, placement of boulders, backfill, and split rail fencing. Potential cost - \$34,000.

Mr. Warner advised the Committee that the concrete slab (area where pavilion has been proposed) is within the 100 year flood plain and a Flood Management Certificate would be needed. Mr. Warner stated the existing slab would need to be removed to see what is underneath it. Discussion followed regarding the cost for design work, etc.

Mrs. Malloy stated grant funding for signage could be obtained through the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

The Committee continued on down Nosal Road to where a second overlook could be created – addition of stone dust or mulch, a bench, and perhaps an interpretive sign.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: Sue DeCarli motion to adjourn. Ed Schwing second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner
Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 13 April 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Cove Walk Notes

eschwing68@comcast.net <eschwing68@comcast.net>

Sun 4/2/2023 6:26 PM

To: William Warner <townplanner@haddam.org>; **Higganum Cove Committee**
<higganumcovecommittee@haddam.org>; 'M J Gillespie' <dgillespie01@comcast.net>

Cc: Bunny Batzner <commisionsec@haddam.org>

Hi All

Just a couple lines to recap some of the things that were discussed informally during our walk with some comments before our April 13 meeting . (Bunny: I'll introduce these at our next meeting and you can make them part of those minutes.)

I think the main idea discussed was that we would use some of the capital budget money directly to build the outlook off the riverwalk trail (Wharf /Nosal road) and clear some dead trees around it. (We will discuss and vote on this Thursday since it is a change in plan from using that money as town's percent contribution with state funding)

Comment:

This would include stripping and stockpiling soil from foundations area (does not have to be extra deep) to be used with boulders to build the outlook.

We could also set a walkable path from the road to the top foundation as indicated on the map.

I think it is important to use the tested material that EPA brought in (10,000 tons were shipped out and replaced at a cost of \$4,000,000.) We don't want outside material suspect or material that has not been tested brought in, even if free. I think also important to have some type of oversight by the town engineer on the project (we don't want the outlook to wash away after first big rainstorm)

I did discuss with Lisa Malloy signage. She is willing to write a grant application to get funding from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County I believe. She will let us know details Thursday. Depending on costs maybe 5 or 6, (Certainly one at the top (new trail next too parking)

I am contacting Steve Gephard to see if he would be available for the walk on Sunday 16. I also think he may want a sign or two at the bottom of the cove facing the water .

Also we will need committee volunteers to help on the walk on Sunday 14. Nothing formal just being around to answer questions on our plan in general.

Hope to see you Thursday 13.

Ed

ATTACHMENT TO
APPROVED
30 MARCH 2023
SPECIAL MEETING /
SITE WALK MINUTES
ATTACHMENT A

Cove Improvement Tasks to review and prioritize for implementation at our team meeting.

Dan Ursini <gooey58@comcast.net>

Tue 4/11/2023 9:07 AM

To: eschwing68@comcast.net <eschwing68@comcast.net>

Cc: William Warner <townplanner@haddam.org>; **Higganum Cove Committee** <higganumcovecommittee@haddam.org>; M J Gillespie <dgillespie01@comcast.net>; Bunny Batzner <commisionsec@haddam.org>

Hi Ed and All, refreshed the task list from notes discussions , and our walk thru (and any other ideas) that we can go through at our meeting Thursday with the goal of utilizing our \$100K budget without state involvement for this year. That being said there may be an opportunity to use state funding if we repackage a lot of the improvements below into one Higganum Cove Americans with Disabilities Project. Our Town Planner Master can vent this out if possible without a lot of hassle. I will bring copies .. Thanks

1. Upper Cove Overlook built with benches/ low fencing (method/ dimensions TBD)
2. Lower Cove Overlook surfaced with stone or wood chips with Benches. Pathway between overlooks graded flat with natural material of the path (no stone dust)
3. Remove Docks and Tires on River Path
4. Remove all dead Ash trees (Approx 12) between parking lot and and first overlook. Also remove some small dead tress covered in vines on each side of the overlook.
5. Define a simple parking area with signage on lower Rossi property (area where we parked)
6. If necessary mark as a walkway on depot road from Rossi parking area to the bridge.
7. Level the current parking area (remove hump) for appropriate handicap parking. This would include resurfacing the pathway from the parking lot to finished path Lee constructed for the overlook and drainage in a similar way.
8. Minor excavation around foundation base and pathway to the area.
9. Signage Costs if grant is not successful.

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