

**TOWN OF HADDAM
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 REGULAR MEETING
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
 WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2019
 UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
X	Mardi Hanson-d'Alessandro
X	Gail Reynolds, Chairman
A	Tom Worthley
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Reynolds, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 28 August 2019 agenda as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Correction to the 29 May 2019 minutes: page 1, 6. Old Business, a. Open Space, Acquisition of Swan Hill, fourth line – change “Susanne” to “Suzanne”.

MOTION: Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 29 May 2019 minutes as amended. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There was no one from the public present.

6. Old Business

a. Open Space

There was nothing new to report at this time.

b. Budget

Mrs. Reynolds reported she will contact Bill Warner, Town Planner, in regard to the Commission’s membership to the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC).

c. POCD – Conservation Action Items – Discussion Continued – Commission Report

Discussion followed in regard to the Action Items assigned to the Commission - Education, getting P&Z to include the Commission earlier in the process, and completing the easements. Further discussion followed in regard to: **Elevating Awareness of the UConn Extension Center** – Write an article for Haddam Now. **Public Education** – Haddam Land Trust (HLT) will have a booth at the Haddam Neck Fair. **Working with Other Commissions** – Still need to contact Bill Warner, Town Planner. **Improve Southern Access of Haddam Meadows** – Unclear what's being asked for. Possibly cleaning up the roadway of leaves and branches and filling of potholes for safety of walkers and bicyclists. **Reduce Lighting** – Education topic. **Create Website/Brochure** – A brochure is a one-time matter; however, a website needs to be maintained in order to remain fresh/up-to-date. **Pedestrian Plan to Connect the Reservoir to Higganum Cove** – Walking path maps created by Conservation Commission intern sent to Mr. Warner. **Strong Visual Connection Higganum Center to Higganum Cove** – Public Works is primary on this. Do not believe this can be undertaken until the Dublin Hill Bridge Replacement Project is completed. **Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Connecting Route 154 with East Haddam and Incorporates Eagle Landing and Clark Creek** – Walking would be fine in this area, but not necessarily biking. No safe walkway across Swing Bridge. **Work with DEEP to Improve the Visual Appearance of Eagle Landing State Park** – May be able to work with Alex Sokolow, DEEP, at a later date. **Study and Make Allowances for Safe Wildlife Crossings** – No strategy at this time. **Reduce Streetlighting and Encourage & Legislate Dark Skies Policies to Reduce Light Pollution** – Mrs. Batzner stated she believes this is covered in the zoning regulations. **Promote Use of Native Vegetation** – There is online information pertaining to this. **Identify Island of Committed Open Space that Could be Potential Linked to Provide Wildlife Protection Corridor** – Information is available and needs to be put into a usable format. **Identify Priority Areas/Individual Parcels for Conservation Preservation** – **Conduct an Education Blitz Regarding Haddam's Natural Resources** – Both items would be tied into the education. **Within Identified Areas & Work with Property Owners and Conservation Organizations to Develop a Strategy to Conserve/Preserve Undeveloped Land** – Talking to people about their personal property can be a touchy subject. **Coordinate Work of Conservation Commission with other Town Commissions in a Timely Manner** – Need to work with town planner.

Mrs. Reynolds stated the way to make some easy wins would be to submit some articles to the Haddam Now. Mrs. Reynolds reported she was quoted in the Connecticut Examiner (an online paper) regarding the Emerald Ash Borer.

PIC – 29 July 2019 Meeting - Update – Mrs. Reynolds asked how the last PIC meeting went. Mrs. Batzner reported not everyone submitted their reports and/or in the format in which the PIC would have liked. Reports that are missing include the Board of Selectmen (BOS), Conservation, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation. A brief discussion followed in regard to the POCD being a valuable document.

7. New Business

a. Reappointments – Walter Bragoni and Tom Worthley Mr. Bragoni and Mr. Worthley have both been reappointed to the Commission. Their terms of expiration are 05.01.2021.

b. Communications/Publications/Correspondence

Haddam Land Trust (HLT) - A thank you letter to the Commission for the donation to the HLT was received.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner reported on the following: **Wetlands and ZBA** – Meetings cancelled. **EDC** – Farmers' Market are scheduled on – Thursdays, 12 and 26 September and 10 October. River Days (5:00 p.m.) and Fireworks (8:30 p.m.) are scheduled on – Saturday, 7 September 2019, Rain date Sunday, 8 September 2019. **P&Z** – Site walks conducted Saturday, 24 Aug 2019, on the Rossi property and Ruddy Ferry Road - for the relocation of the Public Works facility.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Mardi Hanson motioned to adjourn. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 25 September 2019.