

**TOWN OF HADDAM
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 REGULAR MEETING
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
 WEDNESDAY, 29 AUGUST 2018
 UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

X	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
A	Ian Gibson
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 7:18 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Mardi Hanson moved to approve the 29 August 2018 agenda as submitted. Walter Bragoni second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Correction to the 30 May 2018 minutes: page 2, Item 8. Land Use Dept. Report, Market on the Green, fourth line – change “diminishing” to “closed”.

MOTION: Walter Bragoni moved to approve the 30 May 2018 minutes as amended. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Old Business

a. Open Space

Conservation Easement Mapping Project – Mrs. Reynolds reported there was nothing new to report at this time.

Higganum Cove – Mrs. Reynolds reported the town now has titled to the Cove and that a celebration of ownership was held on Monday, 27 August 2018, 5-7 p.m. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that, unfortunately, all of the flowers such as Partridge Pea, Verbena, etc., were mowed down and that people need to be educated on this type of plant life. Mrs. Reynolds stated it’s nice that the area is no longer polluted and that the area should be preserved as it’s a nice place. Mrs. Reynolds stated she had spoken to Lizz

Milardo, First Selectman, and that one of neighbors doesn't want people down at the Cove. Mrs. Reynolds stated it would be difficult to stop people as there's a public road that leads to a state park (train tracks) that is leased to Connecticut Valley Railroad. Ms. Hanson stated she had seen some pictures of the event on Facebook.

b. Budget

Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Commission has \$1,000 in their line item and the Commission needs to consider how they would like to use the funds this year. Mrs. Reynolds asked Mrs. Batzner to speak to Liz Glidden, Town Planner, in regard to signing the Commission up for the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission (CACIWC).

Tom Odell - Mrs. Reynolds reported that Tom Odell, one of the founders of CACIWC and long-time chairman of the Westbrook Conservation Commission, passed away. Mrs. Reynolds stated Mr. Odell was a very valuable conservationist.

Invasive Plant Symposium, Thursday, 4 October 2018, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Student Union, UConn – Mrs. Reynolds reported that she has signed up for the event and may seek reimbursement through the Commission.

c. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) – Follow Up

Mrs. Batzner distributed copies of the POCD to the Commissioners. Mrs. Reynolds reported that she is proud of the outcome. Ms. Hanson stated it's very nice looking. Mrs. Reynolds asked Mrs. Batzner if she had heard anything in regard to the formation of the POCD Implementation Committee (PIC). Mrs. Batzner stated nothing has been said to date, but that may be due to Mrs. Glidden and Planning and Zoning focusing on the Tylerville Village Regulations as well as other aspects. Mrs. Reynolds asked Mrs. Batzner to ask Mrs. Glidden the status of the PIC. Mrs. Reynolds noted there are not as many follow up tasks in the current document which is nice.

d. 81 Arkay Drive – Haddam Land Trust Property – Follow Up

Mrs. Reynolds reported she had to recuse herself as she's on the Haddam Land Trust (HLT) Board of Directors and did not attend the Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC) public meetings/hearings regarding this matter. Mrs. Reynolds gave a brief history of what has transpired to date. Mrs. Reynolds reported that the IWC denied the application at their 16 July 2018 meeting; however, due to a faulty agenda and the Notice of Decision not being posted, the hearing had to be reopened and a new vote taken (at the recommendation of legal counsel). The IWC again denied the application at their 20 August 2018 meeting. Mrs. Reynolds spoke briefly in regard to the HLT's legal fees for this matter and that they had hired Tom Metcalf, Professional Engineer, to review the site for the HLT.

e. Dead Trees along Roadside – Meeting Follow Up

Mrs. Reynolds reported there are numerous dead trees along the roadside. Mr. Bragoni stated he had heard Mr. Worthley speaking about the matter on the radio. Mrs. Reynolds asked Mrs. Batzner how Chris Corsa, Assistant Director of Public Works and Tree Warden, has been handling the matter. Mrs. Batzner reported Mr. Corsa has observed the numerous dead trees and people are calling in reporting dead trees specific to their properties and these calls are rated on a priority basis after a review by Mr. Corsa. Mrs. Reynolds stated she has been receiving a number of calls at the UConn Extension Center, Haddam, in regard to dead trees – oaks, ashes, elms (stressed as they were defoliated along with the Dutch Elm Disease) and ornamental birches (susceptible to the Bronze Birch Borer).

Ms. Hanson stated if a tree is an imminent hazard, then it should be removed. Mrs. Reynolds talked about dead trees within the woods being great for wildlife. Mr. Bragoni stated as the winter weather moves in (high winds, snow) branches and trees will come down and you can only hope that they do not take out too much or hurt someone. The Commission was unclear as to how they may be able to help with

this matter. Mr. Bragoni suggested any funds left in the Commission's budget could be used to fund the Public Works tree removal line item. Ms. Hanson stated she would like to hear Mr. Worthley's thoughts on the matter before a decision is made.

7. New Business

a. Communications/Publications/Correspondence

Mrs. Batzner reported she had not received anything to provide to the Commission.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Maureen Tary, Land Use Office Coordinator, Retired – Mrs. Reynolds asked if anyone has been hired to replace Maureen who retired the end of July. Congratulations, Maureen! Mrs. Batzner reported Rachel Francisco has been hired and she will be working part-time.

Mrs. Batzner reported on the following:

Wetlands – Previously discussed. **P&Z** – Tylerville Village District Regulations and Design Guidelines were approved 21 June 2018 and became effective 1 July 2018. The Commission took the month of July off as well as their last meeting in August and will be meeting on Thursday, 6 September. **Building Committee** – Discussed potential options for the Scovil Hoe Mill Buildings (former state garage). **EDC**- The Commission has sponsored Yoga on the Green for the summer and they are looking to continue over the fall/winter by moving it into the Community Center and Market on the Green is scheduled for two more Thursdays – 30 August and 27 September. **ZBA** – August meeting canceled.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Mardi Hanson moved to adjourn. Walter Bragoni second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 26 September 2018.