

**TOWN OF HADDAM
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 REGULAR MEETING
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
 WEDNESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2019
 UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

X	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
A	Ian Gibson
A	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 7:10 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the 30 January 2019 agenda as submitted. Walter Bragoni second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Correction to the 28 November 2018 minutes: page 3, first paragraph, first line – insert “fungi” after “mycorrhizal”.

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the 28 November 2018 minutes as amended. Walter Bragoni second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Old Business

a. Open Space

Conservation Easement Mapping Project – Mrs. Reynolds reported that she had received an email at the beginning of January from Liz Congo, Tighe and Bond, indicating that the project is close to completion and that Tighe and Bond will only be providing the layers as they no longer manage the town’s GIS system. Mrs. Reynolds noted that she has not yet seen the mapping.

Mrs. Reynolds stated that she met Bill Warner, Town Planner, at the POCD Implementation Committee (PIC) meeting and she doesn't know if he's aware of this project or not; but will meet with him to update him on the project.

b. Budget

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 - Mrs. Reynolds reported that she has submitted a downsized budget – \$500 for Conservation Activities and \$2,000 for the Salmon River Watershed – as the Commission has not been spending the funds they've asked for in the past.

c. 81 Arkay Drive – Haddam Land Trust Property – Update

Mrs. Reynolds reported she had nothing new to report at this time. Mr. Worthley stated at the 17 December 2018 Inland Wetlands meeting a report was given and the applicant is moving forward with different advice. Mrs. Batzner stated formal plans are supposed to be available at the 19 February 2019 meeting.

7. New Business

a. POCD – Review Conservation Action Items

Mrs. Reynolds reported she forgot to pull the Action Items together and will have them available in February. The Commission is responsible for three major items – easements, conservation education, and talking to P&Z to get the Commission in their loop early in the process. Mrs. Reynolds stated the PIC meeting was fairly straight forward.

Mrs. Reynolds stated during the First Day Hike at Haddam Meadows, she was asked why the Commission doesn't lead hikes around town and that perhaps this is something the Commission could do. Higganum Cove was suggested. Mr. Worthley stated he would be agreeable to doing that so long as there's a specific message the Commission is trying to convey. Swan Hill was also suggested with Mr. Worthley stating a hike is scheduled for Sunday, 10 February, and that he will be there merely as a voice to point out interesting points. Mr. Worthley stated Higganum Cove is a good example as it is under the control of the town and eventually questions of use are going to arise. A hike could be a venue to talk about the options for the parcel, what's there, and why it's important.

b. Communications/Publications/Correspondence

There was no communications, publications or correspondence.

Haddam Elementary School (HES) Meeting – Mrs. Reynolds asked Mr. Worthley if he knew how the meeting went. Mr. Worthley reported he did not know how the meeting went yet. Mr. Worthley reported he had been asked to participate, but due to a conflict, he was not able to attend. However, he did provide three pages of natural resources located on the property as well as comments about the assets and benefits (huge clean water reservoir that would provide Higganum Center with clean water at no cost to the town) that everyone derives from the property. Mrs. Reynolds reported that in the State Preservation News magazine HES is listed under the threatened properties listing. Discussion followed in regard to a letter from the Board of Selectmen, previously held public meetings (several years back) regarding the potential closure, the Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) that have been put out for the entire parcel including Swan Hill, and the deed restriction that the property only be used for educational purposes having been changed when the town Quit Claimed the property to the Board of Education.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner reported on the following: **New Town Planner** – As Mrs. Reynolds mentioned, Bill Warner has been hired. **PIC** – Committee is up and running. **Wetlands** – No January meeting. **ZBA** – Meeting Thursday, 31 January 2019 for a variance on a side yard setback. **P&Z** – Discussing the possible expansion of the Higganum Village District to include the Scovil Mill, Higganum Green, and HES.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Walter Bragoni moved to adjourn. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 27 February 2019.