

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2023
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| X | Mardi Hanson-d'Alessandro |
| X | Gail Reynolds, Chairman |
| X | Tom Worthley (Arrived 7:09 p.m.) |
| 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

Add: Under New Business – Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) Conference.

MOTION: Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 29 March 2023 agenda as amended. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Corrections to the 22 February 2023 minutes: page 2, f) Swan Hill, last sentence – change “old” to “with older”, and page 3, b) 2022 Invasive Plant Symposium, second sentence – change “deer and jumping” to “deer, jumping worms,”.

MOTION: Mardi Hanson motioned to approve the 22 February 2023 minutes as amended. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments

There was no one from the public present.

6. Old Business

a) Higganum Center Trails/Walking Path

There was nothing new to report.

b) Open Space

There was nothing new to report.

c) Budget

There was nothing new to report.

d) POCD – Conservation Action Items - Discussion

Mrs. Reynolds reported the last PIC meeting was cancelled. Mrs. Reynolds will wait to hear from Kate Anderson, PIC Chairman, as to when the next meeting will be held and provide an update at that time.

e) Native Plant Ordinance – Review Draft Language – Update

Mrs. Reynolds reported she had not yet incorporated the draft language she had with the language from the group called Wild Ones, a national and state organization.

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

There was nothing new to report.

7. New Business

a) Reappointments – Mardi Hanson and Gail Reynolds

Ms. Hanson stated she would like to retire and will not be seeking reappointment (term of appointment expires 31 May 2023). Mrs. Reynolds would like to seek reappointment. Mrs. Batzner to check on the number of years Ms. Hanson has been a Conservation Commission member. Thank you Mardi for all your years of service! It's greatly appreciated!

b) Communications/Publications/Correspondence

Mrs. Batzner distributed copies of the notice for a groundbreaking event for the Scovil Hoe Site Restoration, Sunday, 30 April 2023, 1:00-3:00 p.m., 11 Candlewood Hill Road, Higganum as well as an article regarding the painted lanternfly (copies on file with the minutes in the Town Clerk's Office). It's okay to kill the painted lanternflies (they're plant hoppers, not flies). Discussion followed in regard to breeding populations in New Canaan, Greenwich, Stamford, Milford, and Orange Connecticut and in Springfield and Worcester Massachusetts. Mr. Worthley stated the biggest threat from these insects is to grapevines.

A brief discussion followed in regard to beech and oak trees.

c) Removal of the Sugar Maple at the former HES Playground

Mr. Worthley reported there was some negative feedback regarding the removal of the Sugar Maple on the playground. Mr. Worthley stated the tree was not in very good shape and had a number of issues going on as it was planted in a terrible location (direct sun, soil compaction). Mr. Worthley suggested the tree be removed and replaced with another species such as Pin Oak, Juniper, or Eastern Red Cedar.

Mr. Worthley stated an announcement for the next round of Connecticut Urban Forestry grants (small grants up to \$3,000) through the Connecticut Urban Forest Council was made. Mr. Worthley stated such a grant would be sufficient to purchase seedlings, document volunteer time, etc., and create a nice row of a Black Cherry, Red Cedar, Flowering Crabapples, etc.

A brief discussion followed in regard to the move of the Shad Museum. Mrs. Reynolds stated Dr. Zaiantz had given her a tour of the museum and that it's really great as well as being the only shad museum. Mrs. Reynolds stated Haddam should be happy that it will be on the former HES property.

Mr. Worthley stated these grants have a short turnaround time frame; and asked if the Commission would like him to rough something out. Mrs. Reynolds stated yes. Mr. Worthley stated the Shad Museum Board of Directors and the Historical Society should be made aware of this proposal.

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to initiate the application process for a Connecticut Urban Forestry Council small grant for planting trees in the former elementary school playground area to be supportive of the Shad Museum relocation. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Worthley stated the species he will recommend are Shad Bush, Flowering Crabapples, Eastern Red Cedar, Northern White Cedar, Atlantic White Cedar, and Pin Oak.

d) Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) Conference

Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Worthley both attend the conference and reported that the sessions were good. A brief discussion followed regarding the different sessions.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Mrs. Batzner reported things have been quiet.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Mardi Hanson motioned to adjourn. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bunny Hall Batzner
Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 26 April 2023.