

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2015
APPROVED MINUTES
*Approved as Submitted at the 24 June 2015 Meeting***

ATTENDANCE

A	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
X	Ian Gibson
A	Mardi Hanson-d'Alessandro
X	Gail Reynolds, Chairman
A	Deb Umba
X	Tom Worthley
X	Liz West Glidden, Town Planner
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

Add: Under New Business – Item c. Emerald Ash Borer Tagging

MOTION: Ian Gibson moved to approve the 25 February 2015 agenda as amended. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the 29 October 2014 minutes as submitted. Ian Gibson second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Old Business

a. Open Space

Geo-Referencing of Conservation Easements – Mrs. Reynolds reported that there is nothing new to report at this time. Mrs. Reynolds asked Mrs. Glidden if she'd had a chance to research grants that would help in this area. Mrs. Glidden stated that she has not had an opportunity to do so.

b. Budget

Mrs. Reynolds reported that there is a balance of \$940. Mr. Worthley suggested hiring an intern to help with the geo-referencing of easements. A brief discussion followed.

c. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update

Mrs. Glidden reported that she has asked for funding in the Capital Plan and that the update needs to be completed by 2018. Mrs. Glidden also reported that towards the end of 2016 a POCD committee will need to be formed and in 2017 a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be placed.

d. Right to Farm

Mr. Gibson stated that this matter shouldn't be addressed unless forced to. Mrs. Reynolds noted that there is a state statute addressing this matter. A brief discussion followed.

MOTION: Gail Reynolds moved that this item be tabled indefinitely. Ian Gibson second. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Higganum Cove Remediation Project

Mrs. Reynolds reported that in December there was a tour of Higganum Cove and it is unclear what the purpose of the tour was about as the Conservation Commission was not invited. Mrs. Reynolds voiced concern that the cove is a potential conservation area; and if the tour had to do with conservation, the Commission should have been invited. Mrs. Glidden stated that the intent was to get the original people who were on the committee in 2000. Mrs. Glidden stated that since that tour, there has been an additional follow up report from Janis Tsang, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who has requested an additional \$2 million to finish up the remediation and that Ms. Tsang will put together a Higganum Cove group in the near future.

7. New Business

a. Salmon River Watershed – Mrs. Reynolds reported that she has agreed to be Haddam's representative and will attend a meeting on Thursday, 26 February, in Marlborough. Mrs. Reynolds stated that she will provide a follow up at the March meeting.

b. Communications/Publications/Correspondence

Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Connecticut Land Conservation Commission (CLCC) will hold their annual conference on Saturday, 21 March, Wesleyan, Middletown, and that she will be making a presentation in regard to what Master Gardeners can do for Land Trusts.

Mr. Worthley reported that the Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment at UConn will be hosting the CT Conference of Natural Resources (CCNR) meeting on Monday, 16 March, and a workshop pertaining to climate change (strategies/approaches in management planning) on Tuesday, 17 March.

c. Emerald Ash Borer Tagging

Mrs. Reynolds reported that Katherine Dugas, Entomologist, Agricultural Experiment Station, would like individuals to start tagging ash trees to make people more aware of the Emerald Ash Borer. A brief discussion followed. Mrs. Reynolds will print and laminate the tags. Mr. Gibson suggested involving a youth organization, educate them on tree identification, and have the kids tag the trees.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Rossi Property, 300 and 305 Saybrook Road - Mrs. Glidden reported that a public hearing will be held on Thursday, 5 March, in regard to the demolition of three structures on the properties.

Higganum Pharmacy - Mrs. Glidden reported that no permits have been revoked and that all approvals are in place. Mrs. Glidden also reported that Mr. McKenna has expressed his intent to relocate to his

property on Killingworth Road. A brief discussion followed with it being noted that Mr. McKenna still owns the former Duffy's Pub.

State Bridge Replacement Project, Higganum Center – Mrs. Glidden reported that the project will go out to bid in mid-March; once a contractor is selected, a public information meeting will be held; and that the project is presently scheduled to begin mid- June. Discussion followed in regard to road closures.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to adjourn. Ian Gibson second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 25 March 2015.