

**TOWN OF HADDAM
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
 REGULAR MEETING
 Wednesday, 29 January 2014
 Approved Minutes
*Approved as Amended at the 26 February 2014 Meeting***

ATTENDANCE

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

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Walter Bragoni made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mardi Hanson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Deb Umba made a motion to approve the 30 October 2013 minutes as submitted. Mardi Hanson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There wasn't any public present.

6. Old Business

a) Open Space Planning

Lower Connecticut River Land Trust Exchange Group – Mrs. Reynolds reported that this group is working at a higher level than the town just prioritizing open space by using GIS; however, without all the easements it's not as meaningful.

b) Right to Farm

Mrs. Umba asked whether or not the Commission still would like to move forward in pursuing an ordinance pertaining to the Right to Farm. Mrs. Reynolds stated that discussion is still open on this matter. Mrs. Umba read from her report concerning this topic (copy available with the minutes in the Town Clerk's Office)

Mrs. Umba reported that of the towns she's researched to date, there are three or four basic sections – Purpose and Intent, Declaration, Definition, and Dispute Resolution; however, she has not drafted an ordinance at this time. Mrs. Reynolds stated, in her opinion, she would like a very general ordinance where nothing would be restrictive.

Mrs. Umba stated she spoke to Marilyn Baumann, tax assessor, in 2008 in regard to a list of farms and assessment values (Act 490), but needs to obtain an updated list. Discussion followed in regard to Act 490 (farm, forest, or open space to be assessed at a different use value).

Ms. Hanson stated, in her opinion, this is more about supporting farming instead of restricting it. The Commission agreed. Discussion followed in regard to the difference between an ordinance and a regulation and looking at other towns' ordinances for tone and frame of reference. Mrs. Reynolds suggested Mrs. Umba speak to Ms. EhleMeyer, River COG, for assistance with this matter.

Agricultural Commission – Mrs. Reynolds stated that the River COG has a regional commission and that John Halfinger is Haddam's representative. Mrs. Reynolds also stated that Janice EhleMeyer is heading this commission.

c) Budget

Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) - Mrs. Reynolds asked the Commission's approval to allocate \$100 for membership to the CLCC. A brief discussion followed in regard to what the membership would allow the Commission.

MOTION: Gail Reynolds made a motion to approve the payment of \$100 for membership to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. Deb Umba seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bicycle Rack – Ms. Hanson reported that the bicycle rack has been paid for.

d) Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update

Mrs. Umba asked if the current POCD addresses zoning for agriculture. Mrs. Reynolds reported that the POCD is not a zoning document but rather a strategic document. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that the POCD doesn't mention agriculture that much (however in favor of it) and that the Commission has recommended to Mrs. Glidden that language within the document should be stronger.

e) Bicycle (Bike) Rack – Update

Ms. Hanson reported that the bicycle rack has arrived and is safely with Gail Powell, owner of Hi-Way Package Store, who is very excited about this project. Mrs. Powell will install the rack on her property when weather permits. During installation, perhaps some photos may be taken.

f) Higganum Center Master Plan

Mrs. Reynolds reported that this project has been scaled back as only one grant has been obtained. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) had been posted last

December, but this has been put on hold. Discussion followed in regard to applying for additional grants and the difference between Higganum Center and Tylerville.

7. New Business

a) Communications/Publications/Correspondence

Mrs. Reynolds reviewed a letter from River COG regarding the regional agricultural council and briefly discussed an email from Maureen Tary, Land Use Office Coordinator, regarding the Connecticut Lakes. Mrs. Reynolds will forward the email to the Commissioners as they did believe they had received it.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

There was nothing new to report at this time.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Mardi Hanson made a motion to adjourn. Deb Umba seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 26 February 2014.