

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
 REGULAR MEETING  
 COMMUNITY CENTER  
 7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM  
 WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2015  
 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
X	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:** Mardi Hanson moved to approve the 24 June 2015 agenda as submitted. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Tom Worthley moved to approve the 5 February 2015 and 25 March 2015 minutes as submitted. Walter Bragoni second. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Public Comment**

None.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Open Space**

**Geo-Referencing of Conservation Easements** – Mrs. Reynolds reported that Manon LeFevre, intern, has mapped approximately 50 percent of the easement. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that Ms. LeFevre will be paid from the 2014-2015 budget and that she has discussed this with Georgia Emanuel, finance coordinator.

**MOTION:** Gail Reynolds moved to spend the remaining balance of \$940 from the 2014-2015 Conservation budget to pay Manon LeFevre to map outstanding conservation easements granted to the town. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hanson reported that she has the utmost confidence in Ms. LeFevre as she has worked with her for several years in the past. Mr. Bragoni asked Mrs. Reynolds if she has reviewed the work Ms. LeFevre has done. Mrs. Reynolds stated yes, that she's on track noting that she's a GIS specialist. Mrs. Reynolds stated that Ms. LeFevre is a graduate of Wesleyan University and is a research assistance at the UConn Extension Service, Middlesex County.

Mr. Bragoni stated that Ms. LeFevre is doing a positive thing for the town and the Commission. Mrs. Reynolds stated that once Ms. LeFevre has completed her job, a book of the mapped easements will be created and perhaps some presentations will be made.

Mr. Worthley stated that this project would make a very interesting article in the Haddam Bulletin as there are a number of residents who probably are unaware of these easements. Mrs. Reynolds stated that she will probably place something in Haddam Now as it can be posted relatively quickly. Ms. Hanson suggested some type of outreach.

Mrs. Reynolds stated that having this additional layer will be helpful with open space planning as there will be a much better view of the open space areas.

#### **b. Budget**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that she received a letter indicating that the 2015-2016 budget had been approved and that the Commission has \$1,000. Mrs. Reynolds asked the Commission to think of ways this year's funds should be used.

Ms. Hanson asked if the Commission is anticipating sharing with the Haddam Land Trust at the Haddam Neck Fair. Mrs. Reynolds stated yes, however, the Land Trust would be covering the cost. Mrs. Reynolds also stated that perhaps a map can be made at the Extension Center.

#### **c. Emerald Ash Borer Tagging – Follow Up**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that she has nothing new to report at this time and noted that she hasn't spoken to Katherine Dugas, Entomologist, Agricultural Experiment Station in regard to this matter. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that there is a dead ash along Candlewood Hill Road. Mr. Worthley stated that there are a number of them and that it's difficult to tell whether it's due to the Emerald Ash Borer or some other cause as there's a lot of stressed ash all over the state. Mrs. Reynolds stated that Ms. Dugas wanted to know the location of any dead ash trees and will report this to her.

### **7. New Business**

#### **a. Discuss Visioning/Recommendation Sessions for Tylerville Held 8 & 30 April 2015, Respectively**

Mr. Worthley reported that he had attended both sessions and both sessions were well attended. Mr. Worthley stated that this was an exercise in ideas and a training session for UConn students and felt the students got their value out of these sessions. Mr. Worthley stated the students came back with several different concepts and this is a starting point for discussion and getting people thinking about what they would like to see in Tylerville. Some of the ideas presented: connecting trail through the open space from the top of the hill down to the river; how to reuse the space within the park; creating an access road on the other side of the properties for the businesses located on the left hand side of Bridge Road (heading towards East Haddam); and small open space areas. Mrs. Reynolds asked if the picnic area by the Goodspeed Station was still there. Mr. Worthley stated he believed so. Mrs. Batzner stated that there's a link to the plan on the town's website (click Regulations on the left of the home page and the plan is under Studies and Reports). Mrs. Reynolds thanked Mr. Worthley for attending.

#### **b. Pesticide Use along the Railroad Tracks**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that she did speak to State Representative Phil Miller in regard to this matter. Ms. Hanson asked why pesticide and not herbicide. Mrs. Reynolds explained that an herbicide is a type of pesticide as a pest is anything that is unwanted. Mrs. Reynolds briefly explained this matter to the Commission and will contact Mr. Miller again.

### **c. Reappointments – Walter Bragoni, Tom Worthley, and Deb Umba**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that Mr. Bragoni and Mr. Worthley have been reappointed for another three (3) year term to expire 2018. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that Mrs. Umba was not reappointed at this time and thanked her for her time on the Commission.

### **a. Communications/Publications/Correspondence**

None.

## **8. Land Use Dept. Report**

**Midway Marina, Gravel Operation for Boat Storage Area** – Mrs. Batzner reported that ZBA had two hearings as well as a site walk and approved the variance with conditions and this matter is currently before P&Z (hearing opened 18 June 2015 continued to 16 July 2015; site walk held 23 June 2015).

**Rossi Property, 300 and 305 Saybrook Road** – Mr. Worthley asked if there was a current plan for what would replace the demolished structures. Mrs. Batzner reported that Mr. Becker had presented to P&Z that the demolition of the three (3) structures would be helpful in performing the remediation work on the JC Products site. Mrs. Batzner also reported that Mr. Becker also indicated that he is still moving forward with the plan to develop the property as previously presented during preliminary discussions.

**Gypsy Moth** - Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Gypsy Moth caterpillars have been more active this year than in prior years. Mr. Worthley stated that the defoliation is spotty, but this happens every few years. Mrs. Reynolds stated that she heard a fungus that normally keeps the caterpillars in check did not spread due to the dry spring. Mr. Worthley stated that was very likely. Mrs. Reynolds stated that the trees will leaf out again.

## **9. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bunny Hall Batzner*

Bunny Hall Batzner  
Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 29 July 2015.**