

**TOWN OF HADDAM
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 REGULAR MEETING
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
 WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2015
 UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	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 7:05 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

Add: Under New Business – c. Silvio Conte Update.

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the 30 September 2015 agenda as amended. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Gail Reynolds moved to approve the 26 August 2015 minutes as submitted. Mardi Hanson 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’s tenure at the Extension Center has concluded. Mrs. Reynolds stated that she had sent Ms. LeFevre an email and is awaiting a response. Ms. Hanson noted that Ms. LeFevre is in the process of moving.

Joyce Moody’s Property – Mr. Worthley reported that he had been contacted some time ago and that he was under the impression that the property owner wanted to talk to a service forester, but had no

specific plans at that time. Mrs. Reynolds reported that Bill Cowan, President, Haddam Land Trust, has discussed the matter with the state, which is interested, but doesn't have the funds to purchase the parcel at this time. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that Mr. Cowan and Chris Smith, a land use attorney, has been working on the matter and intend to put a down payment on the parcel with an option for a year in order for either the state to find the funds or the Land Trust to raise money. Mr. Worthley suggested obtaining a letter from the state indicating their interest in the property and that a bridge loan(s) could be obtained. Ms. Hanson asked how large the parcel is. Mrs. Reynolds stated that it's 120 acres with a large beaver pond, some uncommon wetland species, and is just a beautiful parcel.

Property in Haddam Neck – Mrs. Reynolds reported that Susan Bement, Gateway Commission, has indicated that there is a parcel for sell that would be in line for conservation.

b. Budget

Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Commission has \$1,000 in the budget and asked the Commissioners to think of potential projects the funds could be used on. Mrs. Reynolds stated she believes only a small amount will be needed to put the conservation easement book together. Mr. Worthley suggested applying for a Rockfall grant (matching grant) to get photos of properties the town owns with some suggestions of what might be done/created on the parcels. Mr. Worthley also suggested the hiring of a student intern to assembly the easements with the photos. Mrs. Reynolds stated that the public is not allowed access to all the easements. Mr. Worthley stated that careful consideration should be given to these easements as it's a very small percentage that the town has control over.

c. Emerald Ash Borer Tagging – Follow Up

Mrs. Reynolds reported that she has nothing new to report at this time. Mrs. Reynolds requested that the item to be removed from the agenda. Mrs. Reynolds noted that the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Haddam.

d. Salmon River Committee – 27 August 2015 Meeting Update

Mrs. Reynolds reported that she attended the meeting and there was discussion about acquisitions that the other towns are looking into. Pat Young, Project Manager for the Salmon River Committee, is doing water quality testing for the other towns, but not in Haddam Neck at this time. Mrs. Reynolds stated the group is not a 501c3, but is sponsored by the Environmental Review Team (ERT).

7. New Business

a. Higganum Cove – Ribbon Cutting/Picnic Celebration – Saturday, 3 October 2015

Mrs. Reynolds reported she does not have a lot of information regarding this event and that it's unclear how the weather will cooperate as there's the potential for a storm. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that there is the house tour in Haddam Neck scheduled at the same time.

b. Communications/Publications/Correspondence

None.

c. Silvio Conte Update

Mrs. Reynolds reported that Cindy Sullivan attended the meeting and provided her with material from the meeting. Mrs. Reynolds stated that Ms. Sullivan informed her that the meeting was a basic meeting with a high level report distributed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife intends to purchase more land especially in Haddam Neck, not just on the Salmon River, but on the Connecticut River side, and that they are very interested in the Connecticut Yankee (CY) parcel.

8. Land Use Dept. Report

Steve and Michele Wytas, One Lot Resubdivision, Plains Road – Mrs. Batzner reported that P&Z will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, 1 October 2015, in regard to an application for a one lot resubdivision on Plains Road. The proposed lot will be two plus acres taken from a 12 plus acre parcel.

5 Ledge Road, Hidden Lake, Cease and Desist Order – Mrs. Batzner reported that the Wetlands Commission held a Special Meeting/Show Cause Hearing on Monday, 28 Monday 2015, for a Cease and Desist issued 17 September 2015 by Jim Puska, Wetlands Enforcement Officer. The Wetlands Commission affirmed the Cease and Desist Order and required it be filed on the Land Records. Joseph Mingoello, applicant/owner representative, Joseph Rini, attorney representing Elke Hoppenbrouwers, owner, and Mr. Mingoello, and John Martucci, engineer, Dutton and Associates, representing Mr. Mingoello, were present. An application and plans must be filed.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to adjourn. Mardi Hanson 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, 28 October 2015.