East Haddam Open Space Committee
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Open Space Committee was called to order by Mr. Brady at 7:31PM at the Municipal Office Complex.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Will Brady (HDC), Harvey W. Thomas (BOF), Randy Dill (IWWC), Andrew Compagno (EHLT), Melissa Ziobron (BOE)
Members Absent: Joe Sina (CONS), Susan Kinsman (P&Z), Thomas Sevigny (BOS), Jessica Stone (EDC), Travis Goodie (REC)
Also Present: James Ventres (Land Use Administrator)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion by Mr. Dill to accept the June 22, 2026, minutes as presented. Seconded by Ms. Ziobron and unanimously approved. Mr. Thomas, Mr. Compagno, and Ms. Ziobron abstained.

4. Bills

No bills.

5. Discussion

a. Sprecher Property Exchange

Mr. Ventres noted the Sprecher family has come in and signed all the paperwork. The Town now owns the property.

b. Kronberg Property – Update

Mr. Ventres noted the Town Attorney, through the instruction of the DEEP, needed to conduct an updated title search and that is underway. Once completed, the reimbursement will be completed.

c. King Property Update

Mr. Ventres noted that the King family signed all the paperwork, and now the property is owned by the Town.

d. Other business

Mr. Ventres noted that the Sina family is moving out of state, and they are looking to donate some of their land to the Town. Mr. Ventres provided information to the Committee for their review. It consists of most of the pond on Daniels Road. Their conditions are the same as the Town puts on its open space property. There will not be hunting allowed given the 500 foot radius to dwellings. It butts up against the Gelston easement, so the parking lot will work for both properties. There is the ability to input a small canoe or kayak. This site is a great site for seeing wildlife and waterfowl. There are some rookeries in the back closer to the Shagbark property. Mr. Ventres noted that the process would be to provide a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for approval, then it will proceed to go before P&Z and then before the Board of Finance as a matter of courtesy given there are no allocation of funds needed. A Town Meeting would need to be held as well for this property before the donation could be accepted. There will need to be a title search, and the attorney will take a final look at the language. No appraisal is needed at all. There is no maintenance due to it being mostly water.

A motion by Mr. Dill to send a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Ms. Ziobron and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ventres noted that there are two properties that were voted on in prior executive sessions that require appraisals. He provided an update as to the nature of the surveyor industry in Connecticut at the moment; there are a dearth of appraisers due to retirement and the remaining firms are overwhelmed with work. He is hoping to hear from one given the timing when the grant is due. The State also recognizes how dire the appraiser situation is - they are allowing the appraisal to be provided 30 days after the grant submission, which changes the existing rule that all material is due with the grant submission. Mr. Ventres noted that this is the first step for any new property to be considered.

6. Executive Session

No agenda items.

No motions made, no votes taken.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary