

FOC Vision For Leverett Spencer House & The Cove

Foster Higganum's Economic Growth

Drive tourism to Higganum, supporting retail & hospitality businesses

- Achieve 1st phase of our community vision—"Higganum Plan of Conservation & Development" (POCD) & 2019 charrette recommendations for growing cultural & and eco-tourism
- Put Haddam/Higganum on the map for its mill town history & beautiful landscape; over time, link The Cove to other mills, historical sites & nature sites around town with signs & self-guided tours.
- Deter vandalism with increased Cove activity & appropriate street/center lighting

Create A Heritage & Nature Center Celebrating Higganum's Past & Future

House will have Heritage & Nature Centers, retail space & a staffed desk offering info about our town

- Heritage Center will display mill/ship building history, worker/owner profiles & walking maps of historic mills.
- Nature Center will offer hiking, birding, fishing maps in The Cove & surrounds (e.g., Swan Hill) , maps of Higganum Reservoir State Park & hikes featured on www.HaddamTrails.org
- Retail will sell beverages, snacks, ice cream, sundries & Higganum Cove T-Shirts/Hats & feature local artisan creations (e.g., note cards with photos of The Cove)

Establish Higganum Cove As An Economic Development Engine

The Cove will serve as a catalyst for driving increased business to Higganum. In time Cove activities would include music, dance, theater & sporting events. It should be viewed as Phase I of efforts to create a larger green way

- Pedestrian plan to connect the reservoir to Higganum Cove
- Visual connection between Higganum Center and the Cove through tree management, streetscaping, signage and other economic development efforts in Higganum Center
- Connection to the river railroad track for hiking and other activities
- Website featuring The Cove and links to HaddamTrails.org (with map / app of historic walking tour). Ultimately, link to webpage / brochure providing visitors with guide of "Things to do in Haddam."

Operate A Financially Sustainable Heritage & Nature Center

- Initially, Center will operate May-Oct. In 2021-22, staffed by qualified FOC members, minimal operating budget. In 2021-22, with The Town, FOC will identify long-term management -- 3 initial ideas: 1) rent to eco-tourism businesses (e.g., Pedal Power, Kayak rental, fishing rental or guide operation) 2) assess if food/refreshments & sundries sales will fund staff, 3) assess feasibility of creating caretaker apartment on 2nd floor of center to be offered for reduced rent.
- After Center is fully established, FOC will work with The Town to guide future management & development of Higganum Cove.

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Support An Array Of Tourist Attracting Higganum Cove Activities

(In "Green" are the longer-term activities envisioned at this point)

Years:	Goal:	Specifics:
2020-21	Move Spencer Leverett House, Create Center, Soft Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage info & walking maps: 1) Swan Hill, 2) Cove Road – RR tracks -- River Road/Dublin Hill Road loop & 3) Bible Rock & 4) Eversource Trails
2022	Market The Cove to increase Visitation; Establish Initial Set Of Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be included in regional tourist activities guides Hold grand opening fund raiser / event Offer guided nature hikes Be included in fishing tournaments (e.g., offer camp sites for Carpe Tournament) Offer bird watching Expand hiking trails: connect path to Swan Hill (HK or Boy Scout Volunteers with Land Trust) Secure Wharf Road access for expanded activities
2023	Additional Activities/ Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Kayak/Canoe and/or fishing equipment rental at end of Wharf Road Raise funds for picnic tables & band shell Seek town funding for sidewalk connection to town & Scoville Mills, If we have enough visitors, consider attracting a food truck Sponsor fishing tournaments in Spring (trout) & summer (bass)
2024	Additional Activities/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music, theater & dance activities Encourage garden Club to adopt a garden Photo contests If school identified to rent HES, offer student activities for \$ donation Explore possibility of attracting developer to create a grist mill/bakery, capitalizing on popularity of locally grown – ala Rock Creek Park in D.C.