

Unapproved

**Town of Essex
Conservation Commission
29 West Avenue, Essex, ct
*essexct.gov***

**Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 3, 2013
7:30 p.m.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted a special meeting on January 3, 2013 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Absent Members

Chair, Kay Tucker, Chair
Richard Helmecki
Doug Demarest, Regular Member
Jeff Lovelace, Regular Member
Pam Bernardini, Regular Member

Attending Staff:

Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Ms. Bernardini arrived at 7:45 p.m.

- **Election of Officers**

MOTION made by Doug Demarest to nominate Kay Tucker for Chair: **SECONDED** by Jeff Lovelace; **Voting In Favor:**

J. Lovelace, D. Demarest, K. Tucker; **Opposed:** None;
Abstaining: None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

MOTION made by Doug Demarest to nominate Jeff Lovelace as Vice Chair: **SECONDED** by Kay Tucker; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, D. Demarest, J. Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

- **Adjust 2013-2014 Regular Meeting Schedule**

MOTION made Doug Demarest by to approve the amended 2013 meeting schedule, adding the January 2, 2014 meeting date: **SECONDED** by Jeff Lovelace; **Voting In Favor:** J. Lovelace, D. Demarest, K. Tucker; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

- **Discuss 2013-2014 Budget**

Ms. Tucker distributed the 2013-2014 budget materials. Ms. Tucker suggested setting aside monies for the following:

§ The amount of \$2,400 for the continued treatment of invasive species with All Habitat Services. Ms. Tucker stated that Knotweed and the Autumn Olive would be added to the invasive species removal.

§ Designate the amount of \$400 for tick control treatment.

§ Designate the amount of \$400 for summer trail mowing at Viney Hill Brook Park.

§ Designate the amount of \$300 for lumber for bog bridge building and repair.

§ Designate the amount of \$100 for maps and mailboxes.

§ Designate the amount of \$100 consultant fee for the research of conservation easements.

§ Designate the amount of \$2,200 for the repair of the parking area at Viney Hill Brook Park and also at Oakledge Drive. This designation will also include the crushed stone for Bushy Hill Preserve.

§ Designate the amount of \$1,500 for forest management.

§ Designate the amount of \$2,500 for the Commission Clerk.

Members agreed on the designation of \$9,900 as the preliminary submittal for the 2013-2014 fiscal budget. A final approval will be discussed and voted on at the February 7, 2013 regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting.

- **Discuss Environmental Review Team Application Proposal**

Ms. Tucker commented on a joint environmental venture with the Essex Conservation Commission, the Essex Land Trust and the Deep River Conservation Commission utilizing the services of the “Environmental Review Team” (ERT). The ERT has been in existence since 1969 and they operate under the guidance of the King’s Mark and Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Areas (RC&D’s). The ERT are a group of professionals drawn from federal, state and local agencies to form multi-disciplinary environmental study teams to assist municipalities in the review of sites proposed for development or conservation, and will provide information

about the environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures. Some of the services that the ERT provides includes information about the physical characteristics of the property, i.e., geology, topography, soils, etc. as well as the biological characteristics of the property, i.e., wildlife, wetland functions, etc., and the limitations and opportunities that these characteristics create. This service is provided free of charge.

Ms. Tucker noted that when the development of Viney Hill Brook Park passive area occurred, consideration was given to contracting the services of the ERT.

Tanner Stevens who is a new member on the Deep River Conservation Commission has asked the Essex Conservation Commission if they would like to join with the Deep River Conservation Commission to utilize the services of the ERT for the review and management of Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve. Ms. Tucker will contact Mr. Stevens and ask him to present to the Commission at the February 7, 2013.

- **Review the December 2013 Meeting Minutes.**

The following change was made as noted in italics:

Page 2: Under Tromp and Plunge; “Ms. Pleva provided an *email* ...”

MOTION made by Pam Bernardini to approve the December 2012 Minutes as amended: **SECONDED** by Doug Demarest; **Voting In Favor:** P. Bernardini, D. Demarest, J. Lovelace, K. Tucker; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None;

Approved: 4/0/0.

- **Correspondence**

Ms. Tucker sent notes to MaryAnn Pleva and Susan Malan thanking them for their service to the Conservation Commission. Ms. Tucker will
send a letter of thanks to Ron Skinner as well.

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Adjournment

MOTION made by Doug Demarest to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:42pm. to the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B, 29 West Avenue, 7:30 p.m: **SECONDED** by Pam Bernardini; **Voting In Favor:** P. Bernardini, D. Demarest, J. Lovelace, K. Tucker; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary