

TOWN OF ESSEX  
**Conservation Commission**

---

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426  
Telephone (860) 767-4340 • FAX (860) 767-8509

**Executive Board**

*Kathleen Tucker, Chairman  
Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chairman*

**Regular Members**

*Douglas Demarest, Member  
Richard Helmecki, Member  
Pam Bernardini, Member  
Adrienne Forrest, Member*

**Unapproved**

**Minutes**

Regular Meeting

**Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 7:30 P.M.**

Town Hall, 29 West Avenue  
Second Floor Conference Room B

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regular meeting on March 7, 2013 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Chair, Kay Tucker, Chair  
Richard Helmecki, Regular Member  
Pam Bernardini, Regular Member  
Doug Demarest, Regular Member  
Adrienne Forrest, Regular Member

**Absent Members**

Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chair

**Attending Staff:**

Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**MOTION** made by Doug Demarest to place on the Agenda an introduction and welcome to the newest Conservation Commission member, Adrienne Forrest; **SECONDED** by Doug Demarest; **Voting In Favor:** P. Bernardini, K. Tucker, R. Helmecki, D. Demarest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Ms. Forrest stated that she is a resident of Essex and that she has been appointed as an alternate member of the Essex Zoning Commission. Ms. Forrest also serves on the Republican Town Committee.

## **1. Review and Approve the February 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** made by Pam Bernardini to approve the February 7, 2013 Minutes as presented:

**SECONDED** by Doug Demarest; **Voting In Favor:** P. Bernardini, K. Tucker, R. Helmecki, D. Demarest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** A. Forrest; **Approved:** 4/0/1.

## **2. Old Business**

### **A. Report on Meeting with Deep River Conservation Commission and ERT**

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 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.

On February 14, 2013 Ms. Tucker met with the Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Elaine Sych. Ms. Tucker noted that an environmental review analysis was conducted on Canfield Meadow Woods in 1977, prior to the time when the Town obtained the property. Ms. Tucker had previously met with Tanner Stevens who is a new member on the Deep River Conservation Commission. Mr. Stevens 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 stated that completion of a written request form is required and Mr. Stevens will complete and the Essex Conservation Commission will sign off on the application.

Some of the items of interest discussed at the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were trail usage, forest management, wildlife habitat, signage, access points and parking. Also discussed was forest management. Ms. Tucker stated that commissioners will need to look at the property and determine what the particular area of interest would be. Ms. Tucker stated that the Deep River Conservation and IWW Commissions wish to enlarge their parking lot at Canfield Meadow Woods.

Ms. Tucker suggested that the commissioners look at Canfield Meadow Woods at some point soon so that the application can be completed and forwarded. The ERT does their scheduling in the spring. Conservation Commission members will meet on Sunday, March 24, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Book Hill Woods Road parking lot. Ms. Tucker will contact Tanner Stevens and extend an invitation to join the group. Ms. Tucker will also contact Tom Rutherford and inquire if the Essex Land Trust wishes to participate in the canfield meadows walk.

### **B. Trail Reports and Maintenance**

#### **• Viney Hill Brook Park Report**

Mr. Helmecki reported that the mailbox requires replacement, however due to the snow storm in February he was not able to get out onto the trail.

Mr. Helmecki reported that there are a good number of trees down on the White Trail and he is looking into purchasing a quality, light-weight chain saw to be utilized in the clean-up effort.

- **Bushy Hill Preserve Report** - No report.
- **Canfield Meadow Woods** - No report.

### **C. Other**

Mr. Demarest commented on the annual New Year's day walk noting that it is a tradition of the Conservation Commission to spend an hour or so on New Year's day walking the trails. The walk ends with a shared breakfast.

Mr. Helmecki stated that he will obtain a Conservation Commission cap for Ms. Forrest.

### **3. New Business**

Ms. Tucker commented on an inner-board memorandum dated February 27, 2013 from John Guskowski, Town Planner regarding Open Land Space Acquisition. In his memorandum, Mr. Guskowski stated that with the recent settlement on the subdivision of Foxboro Road, the Essex Planning Commission oversaw the addition of over \$120,000 to the open space sinking fund. The current balance of this fund over \$220,000 and there has been renewed discussion within the Planning Commission on the most appropriate way to spend this fund to the benefit of the community. Mr. Guskowski stated that the Planning Commission is seeking input and guidance from municipal commissions and local leaders. Ms. Tucker will contact Mr. Guskowski and obtain more information on the monies which are to be placed in the sinking fund.

### **4. Correspondence**

Winter 2012 CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.

Ms. Tucker stated that she will not be at the April 4, 2013 Conservation Commission meeting. Mr. Lovelace will chair that meeting.

### **5. Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by Adrienne Forrest to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:15 pm. to the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, April 4, 2013 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B – second floor, 29 West Avenue, 7:30 p.m.: **SECONDED** by Pam Bernardini; **Voting In Favor:** P. Bernardini, K. Tucker, R. Helmecki, D. Demarest, A. Forrest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin  
Recording Secretary