

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*

**Unapproved**

**Minutes**  
Regular Meeting  
**Thursday, February 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 February 7, 2013 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Chair, Kay Tucker, Chair  
Richard Helmecki, Regular Member  
Pam Bernardini, Regular Member

**Absent Members**

Doug Demarest, Regular Member  
Jeffrey Lovelace, Regular Member

**Attending Staff:**

Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

One member in the audience; Adrienne Forest.

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

**1. Review and Approve the January 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** made by Pam Bernardini to approve the January 3, 2013 Minutes as presented:  
**SECONDED** by Rich Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** P. Bernardini, K. Tucker, R. Helmecki;  
**Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

**2. Review and Finalize 2013/14 Budget Submittal**

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 submittal for the 2013-2014 fiscal budget.

**MOTION** made by Richard Helmecki to approve the 2013-2014 Budget as presented:

**SECONDED** by Pam Bernardini; **Voting In Favor:** P. Bernardini, K. Tucker, R. Helmecki;

**Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

### 3. Trail Reports and Maintenance

- **Viney Hill Brook Park Report**

Ms. Tucker indicated that in a discussion with Rick Audet, Director of Parks and Recreation, she was informed that the Essex Public Works Department will mow the grass at the Viney Hill Brook Park active recreation area. Weed whacking of the trim and along the edges of the parking lot is handled by either a Public Works employee or by a Parks and Rec staff person.

The Commission drafted a list of work to be accomplished which will be given to Mr. Audet who will pass along to the Public Works Department, with a copy to the First Selectman, Norm Needleman. The following is a list of areas to be mowed:

- ~Broadwalk Trail in the vicinity around the pond;
- ~Cedar Grove Extension, the wildflower meadow; along the rail fence and through the right-of-way to the Clark's gate. Members will demarcate the shrubs and fern which will alert the workers of the plantings and the areas that are not to be disturbed.

Mowing will be done three times per year. Ms. Tucker will request that the Public Works Department snow plow the parking areas.

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

Ms. Tucker reported that she has spoken with All Habitat who will work with Ms. Tucker to schedule maintenance for tick and phragmite control

- **Bushy Hill Preserve Report**

Ms. Tucker reported that she opened the Oakledge Drive Trail. Ms. Tucker has pulled the brush debris up onto the parking area and the Town Crew will remove.

Ms. Tucker and Mr. Helmecki will collaborate on obtaining a survey which will determine the property lines of the town-owned land on Oakledge Drive.

- **Canfield Meadow Woods**

Ms. Tucker reported that Tanner Stevens, a member on the Deep River Conservation Commission has arranged a meeting to discuss a joint environmental venture with the Essex Conservation Commission, the Essex Land Trust and the Deep River Conservation Commission with the possibility of utilizing the services of the “Environmental Review Team” (ERT) for the review and management of Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve. The meeting will be conducted on February 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Deep River Town Hall. Mr. Helmecki and Ms. Tucker will attend the meeting.

#### 4. **Other**

Ms. Tucker commented on the Conservation Easement Inventory project which was recently completed by Jenna Klinck. Ms. Bernardini will place the conservation easement photos and easement information into a booklet.

#### 5. **Correspondence**

Ms. Bernardini read into the record a letter received from the Lower CT River and Coastal Region regarding the CREPRA and Gateway region view sheds.

#### 6. **Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by Pam Bernardini to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:15 pm. to the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B – second floor, 29 West Avenue, 7:30 p.m.: **SECONDED** by Richard Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** P. Bernardini, K. Tucker, R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin  
Recording Secretary