

TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426
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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, October 3, 2013 at 7:30 P.M.

Town Hall, 29 West Avenue
Second Floor Conference Room B

Attending Members

Kay Tucker, Chair
Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chair
Doug Demarest
Richard Helmecki
Adrienne Forrest
Pam Bernardini

Absent Members

Attending Staff:

Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Kay Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Approval of September 5, 2013 Minutes

The following changes were suggested:

Page 3, under C, Viney Hill Brook Park, to read: "Mr. Lovelace indicated that there is one tree that is coming down on the eastern side of Quarry Pond. Members agreed to monitor the tree."

Page 3, under Viney Hill Brook Park, to read: "Mr. Bombaci *will* remove the two felled trees."

Page 3, under Boy Scout Projects, to read: "*clear the brush and vines overgrowing the rocks* on the path"

MOTION made by A. Forrest to approve the September 5, 2013 Minutes as amended: **SECONDED** by P. Bernardini; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini, A. Forrest, D. Demarest and R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

2. Old Business

A. 108 Westbrook Road Conservation Easement Request

At the September 5, 2013 Conservation Commission meeting Joe Wrenn, P.E. presented on behalf of Greg Faucher and Kelli Samuelson. The property owned by Mr. Faucher and Ms. Samuelson is situated at the intersection of Plains Road and Rte 153. In 2005 Mr. Faucher and Ms. Samuelson received approval from the Essex Planning Commission to subdivide the property into two parcels. As a condition of the subdivision

approval, a Declaration of Perpetual Conservation Restriction Easement was created and dated and signed on June 25, 2005. Per the Declaration, the easement area is 75' in width and designated as a 75' conservation easement /buffer area which runs along the easterly boundary and fronts the right-of-way to both the property lots. Mr. Faucher and Ms. Samuelson requested to change the location of the previously granted conservation easement.

Since the September 5th Commission meeting, Ms. Tucker has spoken with Joe Budrow, ZEO for the Town of Essex. Mr. Budrow made the following suggestions:

- That the Commission request of Ms. Samuelson and Mr. Faucher to put in writing their request and intentions for this change in conservation easements.
- Once received, the Conservation Commission would write a letter to the Town Attorney, David Royston seeking an opinion along with a request that Attorney Royston review the original approval of this subdivision by the Planning Commission to see if there were any conditions or any attachments from their meetings in granting the subdivision.
- Ask Attorney Royston to offer an opinion on the precedent set regarding a change in a conservation easement.

Commissioners mutually agreed that Mr. Faucher and Ms. Samuelson place in writing to the Conservation Commission their request and intentions for this change in conservation easement. Members further agreed that if a written request is received, Attorney Royston will be asked to offer an opinion.

MOTION made by P. Bernardini that the Conservation Commission send a letter to the Greg Faucher and Kelli Samuelson asking that they provide the Conservation Commission with a written request of their intention to change the conservation easement at 108 Westbrook Road, with a response date to November 7, 2013. This letter will be addressed to the Conservation Commission; **SECONDED** by A. Forrest; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini, A. Forrest and R. Helmecki, D. Demarest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

B. Trail Reports:

- **Viney Hill Brook Park**

Ms. Forrest walked several trails at Viney Hill Brook Park. Ms. Forrest found three Mylar balloons on the trails. Ms. Forrest stated that there are plenty of maps available for hikers.

Mr. Lovelace stated that the meadow along the blue trail and down along Quarry pond and along Wollack's pond and down to the public beach area has been brush-hogged and he suspects that the work was done by the Essex Town Crew. Mr. Lovelace will contact the Dave Caroline, Public Works Foreman and confirm that it was the Town of Essex who performed the clean up.

Ms. Tucker presented an invoice from Ken Bombaci for 3 hours of work on 9/18 brush cutting for \$135.00.

Ms. Tucker presented a quote from All Habitat Services for selective spot application using an herbicide in the amount of \$900. Members were unclear as to the exact location that the All Habitat Services proposed to treat. Members agreed to authorize Ms. Tucker to approve the expenditure of \$300 to All Habitat Services.

- **Bushy Hill**

Mr. Helmecki and Ms. Tucker cut up the tree on the red trail. Mr. Helmecki presented a bill in the amount of \$110.61 for repair of the weed-whacker.

MOTION made by P. Bernardini to pay the bill for repair of the weed-whacker in the amount of \$110.61. **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini, A. Forrest, R. Helmecki and D. Demarest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Ms. Bernardini stated that the town crew cleaned up the parking lot and put down new stone at Oakledge.

- **Canfield Meadow Woods**

Ms. Forrest spoke with Jim Denham and he will look into the previous expenditure made by the Conservation Commission in the amount of \$1000 toward the construction of a kiosk. Ms. Forrest will follow up with Mr. Denham.

Mr. Lovelace reported that the Essex Land Trust sent out an email reminder of the October 5, 2013 walk and dedication of a newly constructed viewing platform dedicated in memory of Ann Nessbaum. The dedication will take place at 11:00 a.m.

- **Boy Scout Project**

Mr. Helmecki contacted Mark Prendergast, Boy Scout leader to inquire if the Boy Scouts were ready to move forward with the repair of the bridges at Bushy Hill park. Mr. Prendergast offered the services of the Scouts in early November for repair of the main beam of the foot passage bridge.

Mr. Helmecki stated that there is an area which is overgrown with briars and needs to be cut back. Mr. Helmecki stated that he may be available on the weekend of October 11th.

C. Other

3. New Business

A. Term Expiration Commission Member – Reappointment

Mr. Demarest's term will expire on December 1, 2013. Mr. Demarest stated that he will not renew his term. Ms. Tucker thanked Mr. Demarest for all of his help over the years.

The Conservation Commission is in need of the appointment of two full time members and two alternates.

B. Other

4. Inland Wetland Report

Mr. Lovelace reported that he was not in attendance at the September, 2013 IWWC meeting however he has read through those Minutes and there is nothing outstanding to report.

5. Correspondence

Ms. Tucker commented on a workshop on Saturday November 16, 2013 at the Courtyard Marriott, Cromwell, CT which is being sponsored by the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions. State Parks Centennial Chair, Pamela Adams will host this lecture celebrating 100 years of State parks in CT. There will be a day-long series of speakers and workshops for Conservation and IWWC commissioners and staff. The cost for the workshop is \$40 if registered before October 31, 2013.

6. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary