

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, November 7, 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
Adrienne Forrest

Absent Members

Pam Bernardini
Richard Helmecki

1. Call to Order

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

Approval of October 3, 2013 Minutes

The following changes were suggested:

Under Old Business, second line: The spelling of, “*Keli* Samuelson”.

Page 3 under Canfield Meadow Woods: “Ms. Forest spoke with Jim Denham and he will look into the previous expenditure in the amount of \$500 toward the construction of the kiosk.”

Page 1, Old Business, second line: “The property owned by Mr. Faucher and Ms. Samuelson is situated at the intersection of *Westbrook* Road and Rte. 153.”

MOTION made by J. Lovelace to approve the October 3, 2013 Minutes as amended: **SECONDED** by D. Demarest; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, A. Forrest, D. Demarest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

2. Old Business

A. Review Correspondence Regarding 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 Keli Samuelson. The property owned by Mr. Faucher and Ms. Samuelson is situated at the intersection of Westbrook 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.

Commissioners agreed to request of Mr. Faucher and Ms. Samuelson that they place their request in writing of their intention to change the conservation easement with a response date to the Conservation Commission of November 7, 2013. Ms. Tucker read into the record the written request sent to Ms. Samuelson and Mr. Faucher with a cc to Joe Budrow.

Ms. Tucker stated that she received an email from Mr. Budrow on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 in which he indicated that Mr. Faucher and Ms. Samuelson contacted him to say that they were currently on vacation however they requested to be placed on the December 5, 2013 Conservation Commission Agenda. Ms. Tucker further stated that the letter sent by the Conservation Commission to Mr. Faucher and Ms. Samuelson was returned, as undeliverable to the 108 Westbrook Road address. Ms. Tucker will obtain the correct address from the Essex Assessor's office and forward the letter to the applicants.

B. Trail Reports:

• Viney Hill Brook Park

Mr. Lovelace stated that the trails are in excellent shape and that signs were installed color-coding the trails. Mr. Lovelace stated that the Town's Public Works department trimmed and cleaned up the trails and the markers are visible. There is a new, red Essex Land Trust Conservation marker delineating the Red Trail. Mr. Lovelace took photos of the trails he visited at Viney Hill Brook park and shared the pictures with the Commission.

Ms. Tucker stated that at the October 3rd meeting there was a discussion on retaining All Habitat Services for the removal of the Japanese Knotweed. All Habitat stated that it is too late in the season to apply the herbicide treatment. All Habitat will apply in the spring. Mr. Lovelace will contact Mr. Bombaci and arrange for mowing of the wildflower meadow to occur after the first hard freeze.

• Bushy Hill Preserve

Ms. Tucker stated that the Essex Land Trust is concerned about the pedestrian foot bridges at Bushy Hill Preserve. Ms. Tucker assured the Land Trust that Mr. Helmecki is working with the Boy Scouts to repair the bridges. Ms. Tucker will contact Mr. Helmecki to find out when that work will begin. Commissioners will work with the Essex Land Trust members to repair the bridges in the meanwhile.

• Canfield Meadow Woods

Ms. Tucker commented on the 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). Ms. Tucker has signed off on the application which will authorize a multi-disciplinary environmental study team to assist in the review and management of Canfield Meadow Woods. Ms. Tucker stated Mr. Stevens indicated that the application had been approved and that the Environmental Review Team was to contact him in September, however he has not heard any further.

C. Kiosk Funds

Ms. Forrest contacted Jim Dehman and stated that he will reimburse the Conservation Commission monies expended toward the kiosk.

Ms. Forrest will work with the local Girl Scout Troop on their services in the construction of a kiosk.

D. Meeting Schedule 2014

Ms. Tucker noted that the January 1, 2015 meeting date falls on a holiday. Members agreed to conduct a special meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2015. The calendar will be amended and presented at the December meeting for approval.

E. Other

There was no other business.

3. New Business

A. Discuss Annual New Day's Walk

The Conservation Commission agreed to set the date for the annual New Year's day walk on Wednesday, January 1, 2014, 10:00 a.m. at Viney Hill Brook Park. Mr. Lovelace suggested informing Rick Audet, Director of Park and Recreation of the January 1, 2014 walk.

B. Other

There was no other business.

4. Inland Wetland Report

Mr. Lovelace reported that the IWWC approved an application on behalf of the Essex Park and Recreation Department to remove buried concrete and to reestablish the bank with a landscaped area along Middle Cove.

Mr. Lovelace reported that the IWWC approved an application on behalf of Town of Essex, The Essex Foundation, Inc. property located at Clark's Pond, for a community improvement project to raise the existing access road by two feet and to establish a new gravel base for an existing parking area and new planting at the parking lot at Clark's Pond.

Mr. Lovelace reported that the IWWC tabled an application on behalf of Elsewhere Inc., 34 Plains Road to locate an 11,301 s/f addition with associated parking, grading, stormwater management and bio-retention basin within 100 feet of a wetland area.

Mr. Lovelace reported that the IWWC approved an application on behalf of Charles Doane to demo an existing barn and to build a new 28' x 50' barn on the property to a point 45 feet from a wetland area.

Mr. Lovelace reported that the IWWC approved an extension on a previously granted permit on behalf of application for Norm Needleman and Jackie Hubbard to construct a single family home, install a septic system and driveway Lookout Hill Road.

5. Correspondence

A letter from CT River Valley RiverCog Regional Agricultural Council who is the first agency in the State to act as an advocate for local agriculture. They are located at 145 Dennison Road, Essex.

Ms. Tucker commented on the many services and time Mr. Demarest has given to the Conservation Commission over the past 15 years of his membership. Among the many projects that Mr. Demarest has overseen:

Compilation of a report on the river access points from land to river and took photos which is now used as a template for Harbor Management Commission.

The design and implementation of the gate at the wildflower meadow at Viney Hill Brook Park.

Serve as consultant and liaison to the Eagle Scouts who built the bridge at Viney Hill Brook Park.

Consulted and assisted Mr. Helmecki with the construction of the bog bridges at Viney Hill Brook Park.

Ms. Tucker stated that the Commission will miss Mr. Demarest and his engineering skills and thanked him so much for his expertise and assistance over the years.

6. Adjournment

MOTION made by D. Demarest to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:25 pm. to the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B – second floor, 29 West Avenue, 7:30 p.m.: **SECONDED** by A. Forrest; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, A. Forrest, D. Demarest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary