

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

Richard Helmecki, Member
Pam Bernardini, Member
Adrienne Forrest, Member
Vacancy

Unapproved

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 7:31 P.M.

Town Hall, 29 West Avenue
Second Floor Conference Room B

Attending Members

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

Absent Members

1. Call to Order

Kay Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Approval of November, 2013 Minutes

The following change was suggested:

Page 3, under IWWC Report, 4th paragraph down; change “demo” to “demolish”.

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

2. Old Business

A. 108 Westbrook Road Conservation Easement Request

Joe Budrow, Essex Zoning Enforcement Officer and Wetlands Official informed Ms. Tucker that Ms. Samuelson and Mr. Faucher would not be attending this evening's Conservation Commission meeting. To date, there has been no correspondence received by the Conservation Commission from the applicant regarding the easement request.

MOTION made by R. Helmecki by to deny the request to endorse a conservation easement change for property located at 108 Westbrook Road, Centerbrook, as presented at the September 5, 2013 Conservation Commission meeting; **SECONDED** by A. Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini, R. Helmecki and A. Forrest; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

B. Approval of the 2014/15 Conservation Commission meeting schedule

MOTION made by J. Lovelace to approve the 2014/15 meeting schedule as presented: **SECONDED** by P. Bernardini; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini, R. Helmecki and A. Forrest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

C. Trail Reports:

- **Viney Hill Brook Park**

Jeff Lovelace stated that Viney Hill Brook Park is in good shape, however additional trail maps are needed. Mr. Lovelace cut back the brush, etc. that was left remaining on the Green trail around Wollock's pond.

- **Bushy Hill Preserve**

Rich Helmecki cut back briars at the beginning of the Blue trail at Bushy Hill Preserve. Mr. Helmecki also replaced 3 slats and shirred up the bridge that the Boy Scouts had previously constructed. Mr. Helmecki will do a complete repair of the bridge in the next few weeks.

Mr. Helmecki commented on an email from the Essex Land Trust in which they have indicated that they wish to clean up a pond in the Bushy Hill Preserve. Mr. Helmecki suggested that they first speak with Joe Budrow, Wetlands Officer to obtain approval before proceeding with the work.

- **Canfield Meadow Woods**

Mr. Helmecki commented on the large Tulip tree and noted that the branches need to be pruned and the under-brush needs to be cleared.

- a. Schedule Winter Clean-up**

Those commissioners available will meet for the winter clean-up on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 2pm, entering the Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve at Book Hill Woods Road and proceeding toward the large Tulip tree.

- b. Discuss New Year's Day Walk**

On January 1, 2014 members will conduct the annual New Year's day walk sponsored by the Essex Conservation Commission. Those attending will step-off at noon and will walk from the passive area at Viney Hill Brook Park, circle Quarry pond, then proceed to Broadwalk to the Red trail which connects to the White trail. Members will return via the wildflower meadow and out to the road.

Ms. Forrest reported that Scout leader, Mark Prendergast has informed other tri-town Scout leaders of the kiosk construction project. The opportunity to construct the kiosk will be presented first to the potential Eagle's to see if they might be interested in undertaking the project. Mr. Helmecki stated that the Girl Scouts might be interested in the project as well. The material to construct one kiosk is expected to cost \$250 to \$300 and the construction will occur in the spring 2014.

- c. Other**

There was no other old business.

3. New Business

- a. Conservation Commission Mission Statement for Web Page**

Ms. Tucker stated that the Conservation Commission has been asked to craft a mission statement which will be posted on the Town's website. Ms. Tucker distributed a brief statement for member's review.

The Essex Conservation Commission manages three Town preserves which are open to the public during daylight hours. Bushy Hill Preserve, located in Ivoryton; Canfield Meadow Woods and Viney Hill Brook Park, located in Essex provide a wide variety of terrain and habitat with the purpose of protecting native plants and wildlife. The Conservation Commission inventories the conservations easements given to the Town by Essex residents and businesses which are available at the Town Clerk's office. Working with other land use commissions and the Essex Land Trust, the Conservation Commission makes recommendations on the status of conservation and development.

Links will be provided for printable maps and details of each preserve; Bushy Hill, Viney Hill Brook Park, Canfield Meadow Woods.

b. Other

There was no other new business.

4. Inland Wetland Report

Mr. Lovelace stated the IWWC conducted their November 2013 regularly scheduled meeting and there is nothing new to report as it relates to the Conservation Commission.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. Adjournment

Members agreed to cancel the regularly scheduled January 2, 2014 meeting as there will not be enough members in attendance at that meeting to make a quorum.

MOTION made by A. Forrest to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:20 pm. to the regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B – second floor, 29 West Avenue, 7:30 p.m.:

SECONDED by J. Lovelace; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini, A. Forrest, R. Helmecki;

Opposed: None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary