

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, October 2, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

Town Hall, 29 West Avenue
Second Floor Conference Room B

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted the regular Meeting on October 2, 2014 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Adrienne Forrest
Richard Helmecki

Absent Members

Jeffrey Lovelace
Pam Bernardini

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Old Business

a. Trail Reports

**Viney Hill Brook Park;
Discuss Beaver Damage**

Mr. Helmecki stated that there is a small tree located on the dam side of the Old Quarry pond in the area of the baffle that has been damaged by a Beaver.

Ms. Tucker contacted Joe Budrow, Essex Wetlands Enforcement Officer regarding the beaver damage.

Mr. Lovelace will walk the area with Mr. Budrow to view the damage and discuss mitigation, in the upcoming weeks.

Ms. Tucker discussed several possible options for a solution for the area that encompasses the Viney Hill Preserve, noting that the pond cannot be allowed to be dammed up as the effects would negatively impact the trails and the property of the abutting neighbors.

Update on Japanese Knotweed Treatments

Ms. Tucker stated that All Habitat applied a Polaris treatment to the Japanese Knotweed at Viney Hill Brook Park on September 26th.

Ms. Tucker commented on other solutions the Commission has applied toward the eradication of the Japanese Knotwood.

Other

Mr. Helmecki stated that he saw a growth of Autumn Olive in the area of the trail that meets the active swimming area.

**Bushy Hill Preserve;
Approve Clean up of Cedar Meadow**

Mr. Helmecki stated that he cleaned out the water diverters, removing the sediment and he also repositioned one of the diverters so that the water flow would not seep through and erode one of the trails.

Mr. Helmecki reported that Karl Kaufmann, Jr. volunteered his time to remove the fallen limb from the trail near the first small field. Mr. Kaufmann also trimmed the Cedars and Dogwood around the picnic tables. The trimmings will be dragged and neatly piled just beyond tree line to create brush pile habitat.

Mr. Helmecki noted that the meadow had been mowed.

Mr. Helmecki stated that some of the markers are missing from the trail.

The Essex Land Trust will facilitate a Bushy Hill hike on Saturday, October 4, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Other

No other business.

**Canfield Meadow Woods;
Schedule Tulip Tree Area Clean-Up**

Mr. Helmecki stated that rakes and loppers are some of the tools needed to clean-up the underbrush so that the structure of the Tulip tree would be more clearly visible. Members will meet to work on the clean-up on Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Forrest stated that just past Eagle Rock there is a tree with a broken limb which is somewhat obstructing the trail. Ms. Forrest will obtain the name of the Canfield Meadow steward from Jim Denham. Ms. Forrest will notify the Canfield Meadow steward that Conservation Commission members will be cleaning up the underbrush in the area on Sunday, October 5, 2014.

Other

No other business.

a. Discuss Commission's Annual Submission to 2013-2014 Town Report

MOTION made by to R. Helmecki to approve the 2013-2014 Submission by the Conservation Commission to the Annual Report for the Town of Essex; **SECONDED** by A. Forrest; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, A. Forrest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

New Business

Ms. Tucker stated that John Guskowski contacted her with regard to the Essex Planning Commission. Mr. Guskowski stated that the Planning Commission is seeking a better understanding of the priorities of the key Commissions in the Town. Mr. Guskowski invited members from the Conservation Commission to

attend the Planning Commission's regular meeting on October 8, 2014 to discuss among other topics, a ten-year plan and specific goals, target key resources that the Town should protect, and discuss possible properties that the Conservation Commission may have targeted for acquisition.

Other

No other business.

Review and Approve September, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The following amendment was made and noted in italics:

- Page 1, last paragraph; "Mr. Lovelace stated that the "Japanese Knotwood was sprayed and he stated that the *vegetation* still looks healthy."

MOTION made by R. Helmecki to approve the September, 2014 meeting Minutes as amended; **SECONDED** by A. Forrest; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, A. Forrest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

Review and Approve July, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The following amendment was made and noted in italics:

- Page 1; "Mr. Lovelace reported that all of the trails will be *mowed by mid-July.*"

MOTION made by A. Forrest to approve the July, 2014 meeting Minutes as amended; **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, A. Forrest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

Inland Wetlands Report

No report.

Correspondence and Invoices

Ms. Tucker presented the following invoices:

- All Habitat \$50 invoice for additional tick treatment at Viney Hill Brook Park.
- All Habitat \$300 invoice for mosquito treatment at Bushy Hill Park.

Ms. Tucker announced the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Annual meeting and Environmental Conference which will occur on November 15, 2014 in Wallingford, CT. Members will further discuss availability for attendance to that Conference at the November 2, 2014 Conservation Commission meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION made by A. Forrest to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:36 pm. to the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B – second floor, 29 West Avenue, 7:30 pm: **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, A. Forrest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary