

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, November 6, 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 November 6, 2014 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Pam Bernardini
Jeffrey Lovelace
Richard Helmecki

Absent Members

Adrienne Forrest

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Review and Approve October 2, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by R. Helmecki to approve the October 2, 2014 meeting Minutes as presented;
SECONDED by P. Bernardini; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini;
Opposed: None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Review and Approve October 25, 2014 Special Meeting/Site Walk Minutes

MOTION made by J. Lovelace to approve the October 25, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes as presented;
SECONDED by P. Bernardini; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini;
Opposed: None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Old Business

a. Education/Training CIACW Conference

Ms. Tucker announced the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses 37th Annual meeting and Environmental Conference which will occur on November 15, 2014 in Wallingford, CT. The focus of this year's conference is "Preparing Connecticut for the Impact of Global Changes"

Mr. Lovelace expressed an interest in attending, however he was not sure of his schedule. Mr. Lovelace will contact Joseph Budrow, Land Use to confirm.

b. Trail Reports

- **Viney Hill Brook Park**

Mr. Lovelace visited the Preserve on Wednesday. Mr. Lovelace put together a slide show of some of the issues he encountered on the trails and presented to the Commissioners. There is evidence of beaver activity in the area of Old Quarry Pond. The beavers have constructed a lodge which will eventually compromise the pond and further create a hazard to the recognized trail system and to the passive preserve. The CT General State Statutes recommend beaver remediation by entrapment. Members discussed remediation. Photos of the damaged areas affected by the beaver activity are attached and made a part of the Minutes.

Mr. Lovelace displayed slides of the area in which the Japanese Knotweed is located and the areas that have been treated by All Habitat. Ms. Tucker will check with All Habitat and inquire about the eradication of the remainder of the Japanese Knotwood.

Mr. Lovelace stated that he cleaned-up trash on some of the trails.

MOTION made by J. Lovelace to engage a State licensed trapper whose services the Commission previously utilized, to entrap the beavers, at no charge to the Town; **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Ms. Bernardini presented a bill for \$225 for trail mowing from Windmillhillfarm. Ms. Tucker will authorize the payment of this invoice.

- **Bushy Hill Preserve**

Mr. Helmecki stated that the slats in the footbridge will need to be replaced. Mr. Helmecki will pick up the boards and contact Ms. Tucker who will assist with the repair. Mr. Helmecki will contact Ms. Tucker when he has picked up the boards to schedule time to meet.

- **Canfield Meadow Woods
Tulip Tree Area Clean-up**

Kay Tucker, Adrienne Forrest and Rich Helmecki cleaned up around the large Tulip tree and removed debris and smaller branches. The area is in good shape.

c. Other

Ms. Tucker attended the Clark's Pond park dedication opening funded by the Essex Foundation. Bruce Glowac is the president of the Essex Foundation. Clark's Pond Park is a designated open space and park.

New Business

a. Discuss and Approve Conservation Commission 2015 Meeting Schedule

MOTION made by J. Lovelace to approve the 2015 Conservation Commission meeting schedule as presented; **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

b. Resignation Conservation Commission Member Term Expires December 2014

Pam Bernardini's term will expire in December 2014. Ms. Tucker thanked Ms. Bernardini for all of her hard work during her time with the Conservation Commission and for her diligent efforts on the compilation and creation of the inventory scrapbook.

c. Discuss New Year's Day Viney Hill Brook Hike

Discussion on the annual New Year's Day hike at Viney Hill Brook Park tabled.

d. Other

No other business.

Inland Wetlands Report

No report.

Correspondence and Invoices

No correspondence and no invoices.

Adjournment

MOTION made by K. Tucker to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:30 pm. to the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B – second floor, 29 West Avenue, 7:30 pm: **SECONDED** by P. Bernardini; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary

