

TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

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Executive Board
Kathleen Tucker, Chairman
Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chairman

Regular Members
Richard Helmecki, Member
Adrienne Forrest, Member
(3) Vacancies Regular Members
(2) Vacancies Alternate Members

Unapproved

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 29 West Avenue
Second Floor Conference Room A

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted the regular Meeting on December 4, 2014 in Room A of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Jeffrey Lovelace
Richard Helmecki
Adrienne Forrest
Pam Bernardini

Absent Members

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Beaver Damage Viney Hill Brook Preserve - Overview

Ms. Tucker stated that Viney Hill Brook Preserve is comprised of 90 contiguous acres; a large pond of 11 acres and a working quarry that had been abandoned. The Town purchased this property for recreational purposes. Ms. Tucker stated that the Town has referred to this Preserve as The jewel in the crown of Essex. 30 acres were assigned to the Park and Rec commission to develop into a swimming area and for active recreation. The 60 acres was turned over to Conservation Commission to develop the area for active recreation. Ms. Tucker stated that the bones of the property was beautiful, but the property was a mess. The acreage was purchased as is and the Conservation Commission has over the past several years cleaned up the property and created hiking trails which the Commission maintains. There were old tires, rusted metal car parts, Styrofoam and garbage. There remains evidence of some of the remnants in the Quarry Pond area where it spearheads with Broadwalk. A rusted gate remains, buried in the water which cannot be removed. After the property was assigned to the Conservation Commission to be developed for recreational purpose, the Commission employed the volunteer services of the local Boy Scout unit who came in and took out truckloads of rubbish. The Commission arranged for the Essex Fire Department to conduct a controlled burn of the old garage on property. The Town brought in top soil and laid it on a

concrete slab and over a ten foot area, and a wild flower meadow was developed which now is home to twenty eight identified flowers and grasses. After a property survey was conducted, abutting neighbors learned that they did not own down to the water. With the neighbors help, the Commission went in and planted a variety of trees and shrubs some of which included Red Cedar and Bayberry, to provide the impression to walkers around the pond the illusion of wilderness, and still offering the neighbors privacy. The Commission requested that the Town come in and place boundary fences in various strategic locations which prohibited campers and vehicles and motor cycles from trespassing and gave boundary to the area. The Commission arranged for the installation of large Pines which further offered the illusion of walking in the wilderness, rather than being aware of the proximity to Route 9.

Over the years the Commission has controlled the phragmite and opened several trails, working diligently to map out the area and create and provide the hikers with intricate mapping which is made available via kiosks installed along the trails. The Commission has created a field, a wild flower meadow, and with the assistance of the Eagle Scouts, a foot bridge was built from Quarry Pond into Broadwalk. The Commission maintains those footbridges, purchasing lumber and repairing as needed. The Commission monitors and controls the phragmite, ticks and mosquitos population, and the invasive species all in the effort to create an urban recreational area.

Ms. Tucker presented pictures of the area devastated by the beavers from June 2010 until March 2011. Ms. Tucker stated that the beaver take the debris from their felled trees and utilizing that and other debris, they use mud and build mounds 3-8 feet in height to ward off other beavers.

Public Comment

Janet Irving, 10 Laurel Rd., Essex. Ms. Irving stated that the wilderness is what the beavers are part of. Not walkways with the illusion of wilderness. Ms. Irving stated that the displeasure is not with the work of the Commission, however she asked that the Commission allow the beavers to live.

Jim Rawn, Hanna Lane, Essex. Mr. Rawn stated that he was one of three who built Viney Hill Brook swimming facility. Mr. Rawn stated that this was a property purchased for passive and active recreation and the controlling agent is the State of CT DEEP, and as related to this subject, this matter falls under the purview of the nuisance wildlife section of DEEP. Mr. Rawn stated that the beavers present three risks; health, safety and integrity of the park. In 2011 when those picture were reflective of what was going on, the beaver feces flowed into the swimming hole which created a health issue. Beavers swimming with people present an issue and they compromise the integrity of the pond, which is critical. The area around the pond is comprised of sand which was mined. If lost, all of the water that makes up that pond would flow into the Mud River. There is indication that the beavers have started working there. If they fill it up and block the flow, the pond will be lost into the Mud River.

Carol Richmond presented. Ms. Richmond stated that she lives in the area of Viney Brook and stated that she has walked for 15 years along the paths. Ms. Richmond stated that the swimming hole is lightly used, if at all. Ms. Richmond stated that the geese are more of a problem than any other animal feces.

Susan Malan, Essex, CT presented. Ms. Malan stated that she is a former member of the Conservation Commission however she is here in opposition to the extermination of the beavers. Ms. Malan presented into the record written comments on the beaver eradication.

Laura Simon, Humane Society of the U.S. presented. Ms. Simon stated that the beaver issues are very easy to deal with. Identify what you do not want the beavers to take down and the young tree stems can be

painted. Water flow control devices can be installed in any beaver dam and this would provide a long term answer. The problem with trapping is that more beavers will continue to come. There are far better solutions.

Scott Konrad, Mallard Point presented. Mr. Konrad stated that there are four issues with the extermination. 1. Have not seen any definitive evidence or study of irreparable, long term damage to the Preserve. 2. Not sure that the beavers create any greater public health risk than coyotes, dogs, deer, etc. 3. Trapping and drowning is an inhumane, antiquated practice. The science has evolved over the years to recognize the benefit of beavers. Killing the species or relocating to another place is not the only solution. There are water level control devices at a cost under \$2,000 and citizens in the room are willing to fund this process.

Ray ____, 11 South Main Street, Essex. Hunting and trapping are not permitted in the park, and we entrust the Commission to carry that out. The DEEP website states that beavers play an important role. Killing beavers is in violation of hunting and trapping. Rescind the November vote to eradicate the beavers.

Jake Klin, 66 River Road presented. Ms. Klin stated that we should let the beaver do what they do best. Create dams and build wetlands. We should watch and learn about beavers rather than hearing about killing them. Please don't drown the beavers.

Paul Leach, 7 High Street. Mr. Leach stated that the swimming hole is a failure. In 1970 there was an earth day and he was part of class who created a junior wildlife association. We have a special relationship with nature and he was dedicated early on to creating a balance. Killing for convenience is deplorable, and Mr. Leach stated that he is less outraged than perplexed. Mr. Leach read into the record a short piece on beaver trapping and urged the Conservation Commission to reverse their decision. This method of removal is unkind and unacceptable. It is a temporary solution looking for a problem.

Karen Burzan, Ivoryton presented. Ms. Burzan stated that the Commission built a beautiful preserve and nature is coming. She is vehemently opposed to the drowning of these animals and questioned what kind of an example are we setting for our children. Ms. Burzan is sad and embarrassed that the Commission chose this outcome.

Dave Hearth, Foxboro Point presented. Mr. Hearth stated that he would like to offer a few suggestions to the Commission on how to structure this information. Approach this with the principal that there is a strong presumption to keep the beavers. The second point is to apply the least restrictive tests. There are a number of options and possibilities but the Commission should be choosing one that is the least restrictive. Mr. Hearth stated that the Commission did not canvass other towns and we should hold ourselves to the highest standard. The way of killing the beavers is inhumane. Killing should be done only as an absolute last resort.

Bob Russo, Essex Park and Rec Commission presented. Mr. Russo stated that he is not at all embarrassed by this Commission. This Commission does not deserve to be excoriated. The Commissioners are volunteers that meet every month and mine trails and work very hard on the behalf of the Town. Mr. Russo is a former member of the Conservation Commission and is a current member of the Park and Rec Commission. Mr. Russo stated that he is a scientist and very well acquainted with beaver ecology. This Commission has a decision to make. We hear that there are all these wonderful methods into fooling the beavers about the water levels. Beavers need a certain depth and level of water to survive. Mr. Russo stated that he has seen several cases where pipes installed and mesh installed have failed. He understands that many people find the trapping and killing the beavers inhumane. If you choose to put in pipes, screens etc.,

this requires regular maintenance and someone needs to come in and maintain the structures. We don't have perfect wilderness here. This is a heavily disturbed site and we must maintain a balance of this area. Give the Commission the benefit of the doubt but recognize that they make decisions based on much research and the best interests of the Town.

John Ackerman, Prospect Street presented. Mr. Ackerman asked the Commission to reconsider the decision already made. The beavers are back and the trapping solution only a temporary fix. Beaver ponds refresh the aquifer with cleaner water and their ponds remove carbons from the air and in times of drought their ponds seldom dry out. Thousands of towns have learned to co-habituate with the beavers. 93% of the solutions employed using pipes, etc. are very satisfactory. It is true that not every situation is the same. Until the experts come here and tell us what the solution would be, Mr. Ackerman asked that the Commission postpone making any decision until we receive further advice. The worse thing we can do is close our minds and shut down before we have examined all of the alternatives.

Jackie Carroll, Ivoryton presented. Ms. Carroll asked that the Commission reconsider their decision and suggested that they use the assistance of the humane society for information and to obtain a larger picture of alternatives. If extermination is absolutely necessary, do so in the most humane way.

Ms. Kressley, Essex presented. Ms. Kressley stated that she spoke with Mike Callahan, Beaver Solutions, out of MA. We live amongst beautiful wildlife. There are rabies in CT and there are rabid animals in preserve. Ms. Kressley talked about 2 diseases carried by beavers and noted that there is 1 case reported in CT in 2009. Ms. Kressley commented extensively on Giardia which is an illness transmitted by feces.

Sigrun Morano, Essex presented. Ms. Morano stated that she doubts that the beavers will keep the swimming hole from existing.

Jim ____ Harborview Drive stated that he has walked the property almost every day for the past 20 years. The prior owner allowed people to walk the path. When the prior owner left the beavers alone, there was no flooding and since the Town bought the property up until 2011, the beavers were there and there was no flooding. There is no basic problem here.

____Blake Street, Ivoryton stated that she does animal rehab. This is an opportunity for education. A beaver's dam saves our amphibians and helps to save and create our wetlands. There are so many more positive results from the beavers than negatives and suggested that there are other options to explore before we embark on this method.

Nan Ackerman, Prospect Street presented. Ms. Ackerman stated that by allowing this family of beavers to live, we have the opportunity to introduce a healthier environment and more diverse ecosystem. Viney Hill Brook Park is a fun outdoor classroom for our children.

Candace Konrad, Mallard Point, Essex presented. Ms. Konrad stated that she is not an expert in beaver management however she has read a great deal related to beaver issues and there are experts who will manage beavers in a non-kill way. Mike Callahan is a name that comes up frequently when searching methods of beaver containment.

Ruth Shumaker, 27 Grove Street, Essex presented. Ms. Shumaker stated that she is a former Conservation Commission member and as such she realizes that all volunteers serve the Town. Residents have presented the Commission with facts to support their cause. Viney Hill Brook is not a preserve if we

kill animals for simply doing what they do. Ms. Shumaker asked the Commission to please consider alternatives stating that she is proud of the Town and does not wish to see a negative and bad reputation to be associated with Essex.

Jack _____, not from Essex stating that the beavers were here before the humans. There are alternatives that can be utilized. To see the beavers leave, would be terrible.

Greg Ellis, longtime resident presented. Mr. Ellis asked who is the immigrant, the beaver or us? The beavers were here first. Who are we trying to protect? Mr. Ellis stated that the responsibility of the Conservation Commission is to protect the environment on behalf of the Town. The environment we are trying to create is not by eliminating the beavers.

Katelyn Kressley, North Main Street presented. Ms. Kressley stated that murdering the beavers is not the solution. Taking the beaver's natural habitat is not fair.

Pam Reeser, Essex presented. Ms. Reeser stated that she frequently visits Viney Hill Brook Park and she has never seen anybody swimming.

Frank Hall, 18 Benson Lane, Essex presented. Mr. Hall offered written public comments on the Commission's decision to entrap and kill the beavers at Viney Hill Brook Park which he submitted for the record. Mr. Hall stated that the Commission needs to explore alternative methods.

Joanne_____, Essex stated that so many people are in favor of saving the beavers. It is incumbent upon the Commission to reconsider their decision. The Conservation Commission members are stewards of the environment and as such must reconsider what they are doing.

_____ Nott Lane. In life we have to make compromise and choice. This is a simple choice and this whether or not we allow the beavers to live. I would rather that the beavers ravage the land than choose to kill them.

Susie Burke, Main Street, Ivoryton presented. Ms. Burke stated that she has great appreciation for the wonderful work the Commission does. There are scientific, fact based options and she asks the Commission to slow down and consider the options. People are willing to contribute their time and money to help.

_____ Ivoryton who is a resident for 23 years and holds a degree in environmental science. Let mother-nature take its own course. No animals should be killed, but rather observed and allowed to live. The fact that the animals are here, speaks to the natural environment the Town has to offer. Wildlife is part of nature and we need to accept that. Look at all of the options put forth this evening. Many of the options are free and she stated that she will donate money to protect the beavers.

Andrea Engles, West Avenue presented. Ms. Engles stated that the beavers are an asset, not a wildlife nuisance to be managed. The pond was a great concept. The beavers are a gift. Let us figure out a way to keep them.

Dennis Robida, Cedar Brook Terrace Extension presented. Mr. Robida commended the Commission on their hard work noting that the Park has grown into a magnificent trail system. The Conservation Commission maintains the trails and has with much work, turned the Preserve into a natural wildlife park. Mr. Robida stated that he has seen the beavers come and go throughout the 92 acres. The previous owner,

Stanley Wollock who created these ponds did in fact take matters into his own hands and he eradicated the beavers. Mr. Robida stated that Mr. Wollock was worried about the beavers blocking the outgoing pipe. The manmade pond cannot handle the water level the beavers create. Mr. Wollock was so concerned about the dam breaking, he broke up the beaver dam. Mr. Robida stated that he hears this evening that an overwhelming majority of people wish to save the beavers by contributing money and looking for alternatives, and he now feels that we can coexist with the beavers.

_____11 Meadowoods Road, Essex stated that she enjoys going on hikes and Essex is a wonderful place to live. Having the beavers would be something everyone would like to see and this is a request that the Commission will reconsider.

David _____Prospect Street stated that there are alternatives. Please look into them.

Lois Ely, 9 Harborview South presented. Ms. Ely stated that the State of CT DEEP has funding that they make available to take care of this problem. Before you take people's money, look into the DEEP funding.

Judy Lovelace, Essex presented. Ms. Lovelace stated that this evening she has heard repeatedly that the Commission needs to look at other ways to control the beavers. Many of you are not aware that the Commission has spent countless hours and years looking at other ways to handle the beavers. The beaver can drill back 200 feet into the woods and questioned if the volunteers who stepped up this evening are willing to paint and wrap in wire every tree going back 200 feet into the Preserve. In the 24 hours, the beavers took down a tree that 12 inches in diameter. Ms. Lovelace stated that after extensive research, the eradication of the beavers is a last resort and the only option that the Commission had. Further, this is the way the DEEP suggests to manage the control of the beavers. Ms. Lovelace stated that the Commission has extensively researched options and she assured that the Commission does not take lightly this matter nor their decision.

Christine Rodriguez, Saybrook Rd., Essex stated that this is inhumane and trapping is not the way.

Melanie Phoenix, Essex stated that Phil Miller was handling the trapping of the beavers.

Phil Miller, 24 Bushy Hill Rd., Ivoryton presented. Mr. Miller stated that when this issue first came up several years back, the Conservation Commission spoke with the DEEP which is the proper thing to do as they are the authority. The Conservation Commission made inquiry of the DEEP and they provided the Town with a list of people who were licensed. The Conservation Commission engaged the person who trapped. Mr. Miller stated that he personally did not have a relationship with any trapper at any time. Mr. Miller stated that when the option for the Town to purchase this property came up, it was a great idea. Buying it to prevent this pristine property from development was a great idea. Mr. Miller stated that he never had any relationship with the person who previously trapped the beavers and for anyone to suggest otherwise is a total lie. Mr. Miller stated that to develop the property was a great opportunity. Mr. Miller stated that he personally would prefer to see the beavers stay and he feels that they can be lived with. At some point Park and Rec who manage the active part of the park will have to make a decision.

Philip _____, Ivoryton stated that the land is a preserve and a nature center. The public must allow the Commission to direct us and thanked the Conservation Commission for allowing us to speak our opinion.

Lois Ely stated that when the concept to develop Viney Hill Brook came about it was presented to the selectman prior to Phil Miller taking the position. Ms. Ely stated that it was Dennis Robida who went to the

State of CT canvassing for funding to develop Viney Hill Brook and Mr. Robida came back to the Town with \$173,000 in State funding.

There was no further public comment.

Close Public Comment

Ms. Tucker thanked all for coming out this evening and closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Review Public Comment

Ms. Tucker stated that the first order of business is to review this evening's testimony. She noted that one comment heard repeatedly was that it was an inhumane to trap.

Mr. Lovelace stated that the trapping is done underwater and occurs when the pond is frozen and a specific trap is in place that kills the beaver instantly. There are other methods, snare traps, etc., however other animals get caught in them. This is the most humane way to trap the beavers.

Ms. Tucker stated that there was extensive testimony stated that the Conservation Commission has not investigated other methods for beaver control. Ms. Tucker stated that the Commission previously installed and monitored a flow device which was initially extended 4 feet into the water. After several months of close monitoring the Commission extended the flow device to 8 feet. The flow device continues to work, however the device and baffle was significantly clogged due to beaver activity. The back-up was creating pollutants in the water. Working with the Essex Fire Department, those volunteers blew out the pipe. When the beavers hear water running, that is when they go into action and clog up the running water source. The area of the existing baffle is currently being filled in with mud and eventually they will fill in the entire area. Approximately 120,000 gallons of water run through the Quarry Pond system and into the Mud River on a daily basis.

At the northern end of Wollock's pond, there is an embankment with a good deal of vegetation which prevents that water from going into the Mud River. There is beaver in that area now and there is beaver damage on the northern roadway of Wollocks Pond. In the past month alone, the beavers have felled over twenty five trees in the area of Quarry Pond. Entrapment is a temporary solution that is mandated by the DEEP and it is how they recommend that the beavers are controlled. Three hundred years ago there were no beaver in North America. We now have a population of 5,000-8,000 in CT alone. The beavers have no native predators except man. Ms. Tucker stated that the Commission extensively researched the solutions presented by Mike Callahan, Beaver Solutions noting that there are certainly ways to co-exist with them, and stating that the beavers will eventually turn Quarry Pond into a meadow. The beavers will flood the meadow so they can bring those trees into their lodge which can be 20 feet wide and 8 feet high. The beavers are building lodges and plugging up culverts. Neighbors have complained that their goldfish ponds have dried up.

Ms. Tucker stated that once they fell a tree, the beavers leave saplings that are 2 – 3 inches tall, leaving sharp spikes in the ground which creates the possibility of someone falling and impaling themselves. Additionally there is the ongoing issue of the beaver population compromising the whole area of the tributaries and levies. The beaver will come back. We left the beaver lodge in place so people could learn from it and see what beavers could do.

Ms. Tucker stated that the Conservation Commission endeavors to live in harmony with nature and wildlife and works diligently to maintain the trails and the ponds. The beaver compromise has dramatically risen and it is no longer legal to relocate them, but the beavers must be controlled per the guidelines of the State of CT DEEP.

Ms. Tucker stated that the Conservation Commission knew in September 2014 that the beavers had returned and immediately notified Joe Budrow the Essex Wetlands Enforcement Agent. The Commission looked to wire wrapping the trees. Ms. Tucker commented on the immense outpouring this evening of the public to volunteer, and she asked if the Commission could put out a call to the public to come in and wire the trees.

Mr. Helemcki stated that the concern is the soundness of the dam and suggested that the Town retain a professional to make a determination as to how strong the dam is. In the meantime, we must live with the beavers and the outcome.

Pam Bernardini stated that the Commission should look to compromise. The Commission did a great deal of research prior to the first entrapment. If there is another way, the Commission should consider it. Ms. Bernardini stated that the spikes created by the beavers is a major concern in terms of a liability to the Town.

Mr. Neeldman, ex officio member of all of the Boards presented. Mr. Neeldeman thanked the Commission and stated that he is aware that they have looked at all of the alternatives. Mr. Needleman stated that there is a potential for damage, he recommends that the Commission consider postponing trapping for now, get through the season and do a bit more research. The Commission has a budget and there is a remaining balance that can be utilized. The beavers are an issue all over Town. There is not much that we can do, other than what we are already doing and that is going in with backhoes and breaking up their lodges. The State inspector required that the lodge be dismantled, as when the dam lets go the entire area can be flooded. This is a management issue. It is the least desirable alternative, however it is the unfortunate reality of where people meet wildlife. This is conservation land and we should go the extra step and see if there are any alternatives. Mr. Needleman stated that he is appreciative to hear that people are willing to spend their money on alternative solutions. Mr. Needleman recommended that Bob Doane, Town Engineer evaluate the dams and stated his concern about the ensuing damage created by the beavers to private residences and other properties.

Ms. Tucker asked if the town crew can go in and break up the lodge.

Mr. Needelman stated it depends on where the lodge is situated and if the town crew can get to it.

Mr. Lovelace stated that that lodge was intentionally left intact so when the beavers came back there they would go back to that lodge. Mr. Lovelace noted that there are beavers in the area of Bokum Rd., Ingham Hill Rd., Deep River Road and Old Deep River Road. Mr. Lovelace stated that he will contact Dave Caroline, Town Foreman and Bob Doane, Town Engineer and ask for an evaluation the area.

Mr. Helmecki stated that he will go out and clear the trail as best as he can. The Commission will need to go out on a weekly basis to clear.

Mr. Needleman asked Ms. Tucker to put together a brief letter and forward to Mr. Needleman who will send out an email blast requesting volunteers to go out and wrap the trees and do some of the work.

Ms. Bernardini suggested that the Commission investigate and decide exactly what they want to do before they wrap and wire the trees.

Mr. Helmecki stated that the plan is to wrap the trees with wires and see how this works.

Mr. Lovelace stated that the Commission attempted this method three years ago.

Ms. Tucker stated that the Commission might just let it all go and cordon of the trails in and around the beavers.

Mr. Needleman stated that when the beavers present an imminent threat to public safety, different methods will be tried.

Ms. Tucker asked the Commission to rescind their decision related to the handling of the beavers which was made at the November 2014 meeting. Ms. Tucker stated that the Commission will further investigate alternative solutions. The Commission has obtained this evening a business card from the humane society. There has been a huge offering this evening from the public to volunteer time and energy toward dealing with the beaver damage within Viney Hill Brook Preserve. Ms. Tucker stated that someone in the community is needed to coordinate the volunteer effort.

The trail that circles Quarry Pond and goes across to Broadwalk is in immediate danger. There is no way to cordon off one trail because it is a loop. This a CL&P right-of-way and the Town has an obligation to keep that area passable.

Mr. Helmecki suggested another option to install a four foot high fence.

Mr. Needleman suggested that a Commissioner contact Mike Callahan and engage him and have him come out and assess the damage and walk the trail and see if he has any suggestions that the Commission has not thought of. Every beaver takes down 200 trees per year. If we can get volunteers to commit the money that would be great, however Mr. Needleman stated that he will speak with the Deputy Treasurer, Kelly Sterner and inquire if there is money in the budget. We will try to raise money and if we cannot we will find a way to pay for it. Based on the amount of volunteers who stepped up this evening, we have enough people to do the work. Mr. Callahan will offer consulting service and the volunteers will do the work. Mr. Needleman consulted with the Town Counsel and it was determined that the authority of managing this property lies with the Conservation Commission. Public works will assist and will work under the guidance of the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Lovelace will contact Mike Callahan, Beaver Solutions and research similar firms, if available that operate within the State and whom have a working knowledge with the State of CT regulations.

Review and Approve November 6, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

Review and approval of the November 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes was tabled.

Old Business

Trail Reports

Trail Reports tabled. Mr. Helmecki stated that he purchased the logs for repair of the footbridges at Bushy Hill Park

January 1, 2015 Hike

Ms. Tucker encouraged all members and the public to attend the January 1, 2015 annual hike at Viney Hill Brook Park. Members will meet at the Active area at 10:00 a.m.

Other

No other business

Inland Wetlands Report – Jeff Lovelace

No Report.

Correspondence

Two phone calls made to the Town Hall seeking a return call related to the beaver issue. Mr. Lovelace will return those two calls.

A letter entered into the record Juanita Parls, 44 Bushy Hill Road.

Mr. Needleman stated that is a need for volunteers on the Conservation Commission. The Commission is in need of three regular members and two alternates. Mr. Needleman encouraged membership among the audience members in attendance this evening.

Adjournment

MOTION made by J. Lovelace to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:15 pm. to a special meeting scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, January 14, 2015 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B – second floor, 29 West Avenue, 7:30 pm: **SECONDED** by A. Forrest; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, A. Forrest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** P. Bernardini; **Approved:** 4/0/1.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary