

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
Frank Hall, Secretary

Regular Members

Richard Helmecki
Adrienne Forrest
Robert Ward
Mark J. Reeves
Frank Hall

Alternate Member

Jerri MacMillian

Unapproved

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 4 2015 at 7:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 29 West Avenue - Room B

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their Regular Meeting on June 4, 2015 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Richard Helmecki
Robert Ward
Jeffrey Lovelace
Mark Reeves

Absent Members

Frank Hall
Jerri MacMillian
Adrienne Forrest

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

Audience: There were no audience members.

1. Call to Order

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

K Tucker asked R. Ward to serve as Acting Secretary for this meeting.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Old Business:

a. Review and Approve By-law Modifications

K Tucker stated that the By-laws were first adopted on May 3, 1977 and last amended on May 8, 2000. Further modifications to the By-laws were discussed.

MOTION made by M. Reeves to table review and approval of the By-laws to the July 2015 Meeting;
SECONDED by R. Ward; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, M. Reeves, R. Ward, J. Lovelace;
Opposed: None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

b. Viney Hill Brook Park Projects and Trail Conditions

M. Reeves reported that on May 17, 2015, R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, M. Reeves, and F. Hall met at Viney Hill Brook Park and walked the perimeter of Quarry pond. Members cut trees and brush around the 8” steel pipe to better access that pipe for maintenance purposes.

F. Hall and M. Reeves moved to the 12” Main Drain. Reeves stood in the pond, and using tools and his hands attempted to clear the flow pipe and attached baffle. M. Reeves then placed a 4’ x 4’ galvanized cattle panel, weighted it down with rocks, and positioned it around the gap in the pipe. R. Ward visited the site the following day and noted that the drainage pipe was still flowing fairly unobstructed and the weighted panel remained intact.

M. Reeves suggested removing the baffle and flow pipe because they are immersed in mud and clogged. Some of the obstruction is due to beaver activity; some clogging is also attributable to natural debris and silt flowing from the pond into the pipe. R. Helmecki suggested cutting and/or drilling holes in the flow pipe.

M. Reeves suggested installing a screened gate with a collar in front of the flow pipe.

R. Ward reported that he visits Quarry pond three days per week and measures the water flow. Ward noted that after overnight beaver activity the flow rate drops to 20 gallons per minute. R. Ward stated that after a quick clean-up of the dammed area, the flow can increase to 40 gallons per minute. R. Ward suggested that the Commission seek an easier, long term solution to keeping this pipe open.

R. Helmecki suggested digging up the flow pipe, installing an exclusion fence, and placing a galvanized cage over the culvert pipe.

M. Reeves suggested that members schedule a meeting at the site to review and act on some of the suggestions made at this evening’s meeting. M. Reeves commented on the possibility of the Essex Fire Department coming to the site and utilizing their hoses and equipment to clear out the pipe.

K. Tucker suggested that the IWWC be consulted to determine if special permitting is required to work on clearing the Main Drain in Quarry pond. J. Lovelace will contact J. Budrow, Wetlands Enforcement Officer, for a determination on how to proceed. Andrew Kressley, Essex Fire Department, will be contacted and asked for the assistance of the Fire Department in clearing out the Main Drain.

J. Lovelace reported that he spoke with Ken Bombaci, dba Windmill Hill Farm, who will mow in the next week or two, and thereafter on a bi-weekly basis.

c. Bushy Hill Preserve Projects and Trail Conditions

K. Tucker reported that All Habitat Services applied a Larvicide treatment for mosquito control.

d. Canfield Meadow Woods Projects and Trail Conditions

R. Ward stated that Canfield Meadow Woods is in good shape; the footbridges have been repaired, the trails are raked and the Preserve appears to be highly used this year.

e. Fiscal Year End Projects and Expenditures

K Tucker reported that \$4,945 remains in this fiscal year's budget. That amount will be reduced as follows: All Habitat Services for Larvicide treatment \$500; Phragmite and Japanese Knotweed treatments and cutting \$2000; expenditure for the volunteer's hats at \$150; tick signage at \$200.00; Windmill Hill Farms for mowing and maintenance \$500; lumber and materials to build additional bog bridge \$200. A payment to Mrs. Shirley Malcarne of \$100 for researching the Town's conservation easements.

K. Tucker referenced prebuilt Bat Houses which the CT Audubon Society is selling for \$95.

MOTION made by M. Reeves to encumber \$200 and purchase two Bat Houses; **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, M. Reeves, R. Ward, J. Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

f. Other

K Tucker reported that five volunteers monitoring and remediating beaver activity at VHBP have signed Town of Essex Volunteer Agreements. Their waivers were delivered to the First Selectman.

K. Tucker reported that since 2000, the Conservation Commission has hired assistants to research and inventory the Town of Essex and the Essex Land Trust's conservation easements.

4. New Business

J. Lovelace reported that there is a five-foot path conservation easement running from Primrose Ledge Road to Canfield Woods. The property is known as Map and Lots #'s 25-1-7, 25-1-8, 25-1-9. Sapia Builders are constructing a home on the lot and the conservation easement goes across that lot.

K. Tucker suggested that J. Lovelace contact J. Budrow, Wetlands Enforcement Agent and ask him to visit the site and ascertain that the five-foot easement remains intact.

5. Review and Approve May, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The following change was suggested:

- Page 2, report on current volunteers; K. Tucker suggested that the line read: "There are five volunteers besides Conservation Commission member, R. Ward; Elise Kressley, Elizabeth and Richard Alvord, Chris Pimley, and Dana Hill."
- Page 4, Bushy Hill Preserve Projects and Trail Report, last sentence, to read: "The cost for the boards was \$42.39 and the cost to sharpen the chain saw and purchase the new chain was \$27.98."

MOTION made by M. Reeves to approve the May 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes as amended; **SECONDED** by R. Ward; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, M. Reeves, R. Ward, J. Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** J. Lovelace; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Review and Approve December 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Page 1: "Ms. Tucker stated that the "bones of the property *were* beautiful."

Page 2, top of page to read: "laid it over a concrete slab which remained underground"

Page 3: bottom of page "the Commissioners are volunteers who meet every month and maintain trails and work..."

Page 6, bottom of page: "Philip Schaller, Ivoryton"

Page 6, middle of the page: The sentence that begins with Judy Lovelace; “in 24 hours the beavers took down a tree that *was*”
Page 8, middle of page: “There is not much that we can do other than what we already doing and he stated on Ivory Street and Walnut Street...”
Page 8, strike Mr. Lovelace and insert “*Mr. Needleman* noted that there are beavers on Bokum Road, Ingham Hill Road, etc.”
Page 9, after Mr. Needleman, “*Ms. Forrest* asked the Commission to rescind their decision to handling the beavers.”
Page 9, “Mr. Lovelace stated that the Commission *discussed* wrapping the trees.”

Discussion: J. Lovelace noted that it was a difficult evening and the Commissioners have attempted to reconstruct the Minutes to the best of their ability.

MOTION made by R. Helmecki to approve the December 2014 Meeting Minutes as amended; **SECONDED** by J. Lovelace; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, J. Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** R, Ward, M. Reeves; **Approved:** 3/0/2. Motion carried.

6. Reschedule July 2, 2015 Meeting

MOTION made by R. Helmecki to reschedule the July 2, 2015 meeting and to conduct a special meeting on July 9, 2015; **SECONDED** by J. Lovelace; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, R. Ward, M. Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

M. Reeves distributed the newly crafted Tick signage. K. Tucker suggested the placement of a sign at the kiosk at Viney Hill Brook Park. R. Helmecki will install one at the Bushy Hill entrance. R. Ward will take several signs for installation at Canfield Meadow Woods. M. Reeves will place a sign in the area of the parking lot at Viney Hill Brook Park. K. Tucker suggested that a sign be placed within the Essex Town Hall.

7. Inland/Wetlands Report - Jeffrey Lovelace Liaison:

J. Lovelace reported that the IWWC approved a permit for IWWC Application 15-3 on behalf of SKR Partners, LLC, property located at 11 Foxboro Road. This is an application to allow a five-foot easement to the Windmill Lot and a 115 foot wooden boardwalk that extends to a common dock within a 100-foot upland review area of North Cove.

J Lovelace reported that the IWWC also approved a permit for IWWC Application 15-4 on behalf of the Essex Land Trust, property located at Ingham Hill Road. This is an application to locate a driveway and an 8-space parking lot off of Ingham Hill Road in order to access the 1000 Acre Preserve from the Essex side.

8. Adjournment

MOTION made by M. Reeves to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:16pm; **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, M. Reeves, R. Ward, J. Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin, Recording Secretary
Recording Secretary