

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**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 15, 2015 at 7:30 P.M.**  
**Town Hall, 29 West Avenue - Room B**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted a Special Meeting on July 15, 2015 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Kay Tucker  
Richard Helmecki  
Robert Ward  
Jeffrey Lovelace  
Mark Reeves  
Adrienne Forrest  
Jerri MacMillian

**Absent Members**

Robert Ward

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.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Old Business:**

**a. Viney Hill Brook Park Quarry Pond Flow Pipe**

**Current Conditions**

J. Lovelace reported that he visited the area of Quarry Pond at Viney Hill Brook Park today and there appeared to be beaver activity. J. Lovelace stated that there was no outflow coming from the main drain, however the water level was at the same height as was witnessed on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

J. Lovelace reported that the water depth was 16” in the area of the Eagle Scout bridge and there is more water at the junction of the Eagle Scout Bridge and Broadwalk, which renders that intersection too wet to bring in equipment for the purpose of mowing, etc.

### **Possible Solutions**

M. Reeves suggested a controlled release system for the Main Drain when the water level reaches 16”. M. Reeves suggested to clear the concrete pipe, remove the white plastic pipe and to install a dam stopper in front of concrete outlet pipe. When the water level rises to 16”, lift the gate, release the water and when the desired water level is achieved, lower the gate to stop the flow.

F. Hall suggested the installation of an exclusion fence, as was recommended by Mike Callahan, Beaver Solutions, LLC.

F. Hall contacted Andy Kressley, Deputy Chief of Essex Fire Department, however he has not yet heard back. A. Kressley previously volunteered to clear the drain once the necessary approvals were obtained.

J. Lovelace spoke with J. Budrow, Essex Wetlands Enforcement Agent who granted permission to perform maintenance on the main drain in the pond at Viney Hill Brook Park. J Budrow stated that there is to be no work near the bank. J. Lovelace also spoke with T. Mack and received approval to traverse through his property to access the site.

J. Lovelace stated that the beaver lodge on Quarry Pond is twice the size as it was in May.

### **Schedule Work Party to Clear Flow Pipe and Correct Further Blockage**

K. Tucker suggested that members schedule a work party in coordination with the Fire Department and with T. Mack, to clear the Main Drain flow pipe and to postpone the installation of the exclusion fence.

J. Lovelace will file an IWWC application for the installation of the exclusion fence with a request for administrative approval of this proposal.

K Tucker asked F. Hall to contact Mike Callahan, Beaver Solutions and inquire as to what maintenance is requisite in keeping the pipe clear. F. Hall will ask if it is necessary to draw down the water to install the exclusion fence.

### **Preserve Trail Reports and Projects Viney Hill Brook Park**

J Lovelace reported that the trail around Wollock’s Pond and the White trail are in need of weed whacking. M. Reeves purchased bog bridge materials as discussed at the May 2015 meeting. M. Reeves purchased six, 2’ x 12’ pressured treated wood, and four, 4’ x 4’, pieces of pressure treated wood which will be utilized in the process of constructing 72 feet of bog bridge. M. Reeves presented an invoice in the amount of \$196 for the materials.

### **b. Bushy Hill Preserve**

R. Helmecki and K. Tucker replaced 4 slats in the Boy Scout bridges. They cut down a tree that was blocking the Orange trail and performed maintenance and manicuring.

R. Helmecki reported that he installed two bat houses.

R. Helmecki reported that the field has been mowed and the area looks good.

**c. Canfield Meadow Woods**

No report.

**Financial Expenditures and Encumbrances**

K. Tucker reported on encumbered funds from the 2014/2015 budget:

\$500 was encumbered for printing; \$353 expended to Essex printing.

\$200 was encumbered for Bat houses; \$190 expended for the bat houses.

\$500 was encumbered for Windmill Hills Farm for mowing; \$620 invoice received (two bills in amount of \$360).

\$200 was encumbered for materials; \$196.19 bill from M. Reeves and \$55.93 bill from Beard Lumber.

Funds were encumbered for All Habitat Services for the cutting of phragmite and Japanese Knotweed; \$550 bill received from All Habitat.

\$4,200 was encumbered and a total of \$2665.12 in invoices were received. There will be further invoices from All Habitat Services.

Bills for 2015/16:

Clarks Custom Services/Ben Clark invoice for mowing, weed whacking and clearing trails in the amount of \$300.

K. Tucker will contact the vendor to determine the dates of service, the location and the hours worked and will inquire if they carry liability insurance.

Eli Clark Invoice in the amount of \$300 for mowing, weed whacking and clearing trails. K. Tucker will authorize payment when further information is obtained on services rendered.

J. Lovelace will contact K. Bombaci, Windmill Hill Farms to discuss and to obtain further information on the outsourcing of the work to Clark's Custom Services.

**Report on Lots #25-1-7, 25-1-8, 25-1-9 Primrose Ledge Road Conservation Easements**

J. Lovelace reported that B. Ward was working on locating further information on 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.

J. Lovelace reported that J. Budrow, Wetlands Enforcement Agent visited the site and ascertained the location of that the five-foot easement. (this next statement seems redundant-you can leave it in for further review if you wish) J. Lovelace will contact J. Budrow and request that he visit the site and locate the easement.

#### **Other**

F. Hall questioned the status of the review and approval of the Amended By-laws. K. Tucker stated that it would be done at such time when all members were present for a meeting.

#### **4. New Business**

J. Lovelace suggested leveling off and repairing the parking lot for the passive recreation area. K Tucker stated that the Town Crew might be willing to do the repair.

**MOTION** made by M. Reeves to contact the Essex Public Works Department and ask them to look into resolving the problem related to the parking lot in the Passive Recreation area in Viney Hill Brook Park at the end of Cedar Grove Terrace; **SECONDED** by J. Lovelace; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, M. Reeves, A. Forrest, J. Lovelace, F. Hall; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

#### **Other**

There was no other business.

#### **5. Review and Approve June 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** made by M. Reeves to approve the June 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes as presented; **SECONDED** by J. Lovelace; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, M. Reeves, J. Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** F. Hall, A. Forrest; **Approved:** 4/0/2.

#### **6. Inland/Wetlands Report - Jeffrey Lovelace Liaison:**

J. Lovelace reported that at the June 2015 meeting the IWWC approved Application 15-5, George and Valerie Washburn, 8 Bracket Lane, to allow a small addition to enclose the existing water wheel. The IWWC regularly scheduled meeting for July 2015 was cancelled due to lack of business.

#### **7. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

#### **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by F. Hall to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:00pm to the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B – second floor, 29 West Avenue; **SECONDED** by M. Reeves; **Voting In Favor:** R. Helmecki, K. Tucker, M. Reeves, A. Forrest, J. Lovelace, F. Hall; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin, Recording Secretary  
Recording Secretary