

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*

**Alternate Member**

*Jerri MacMillian*

**Unapproved**

**Minutes Special Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.**  
**Town Hall, 29 West Avenue - Room B**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted a special meeting on January 12, 2017 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Kay Tucker  
Mark Reeves  
Robert Ward  
Jeffrey Lovelace  
Frank Hall  
Jerri MacMillian, seated for Richard Helmecki

**Absent Members**

Richard Helmecki  
Adrienne Forrest

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

Audience: There were no audience members present

**1. Call to Order**

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

Seated for the meeting were K. Tucker, J Lovelace, M. Reeves, R Ward, F. Hall, J MacMillian.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to change the order of the Agenda to begin the meeting with New Business, Item c. Essex Land Trust Request for Letter of Support regarding Land Acquisition; **SECONDED** by J Lovelace; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J Lovelace, M. Reeves, R Ward, F. Hall, J MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

#### 4. New Business:

##### c. Essex Land Trust Request for Letter of Support regarding Land Acquisition

Paul Greenberg, representing the Essex Land Trust (ELT) stated that he was presenting to the Conservation Commission information relating to the ELT's proposed purchase of the "Doane" property. P. Greenberg stated that the ELT had previously purchased a portion of a subdivided property owned by the late Dr. James which is located off of Hudson Lane, now known as James Glen, and also attempted to purchase a portion of the Anderson/Doane property. However, at the time, the family was not ready to sell.

The ELT has since purchased 17 acres (Anderson property) of land which is situated next to the Doane property, and named it Doane's Woods. P Greenberg stated that the ELT is now in the process of purchasing another portion of the Anderson/Doane property (about 18 acres) which consists of fields, two streams and a Red Maple swamp. P Greenberg stated that the ELT hopes to apply for a DEEP grant to assist with the acquisition of this property and at this time the Land Trust is looking for a letter of support from the Conservation Commission.

P Greenberg stated that there are two properties in Deep River that the Essex property connects to and "James Glenn" is one of the nicest properties owned by the Essex Land Trust. There is a February 2, 2017 deadline for submission of Grant proposal and related materials.

P Greenberg stated that the protection of the Doane parcel will complete an open space corridor of almost 50 acres which connects the Essex Land Trust Preservers in Essex with the Lyons Meadow Preserve to the Deep River Land Trust.

J MacMillian stated that given the serious deficits faced by the State, she cannot support a vote for a purchase that is not critical.

**MOTION** made by F Hall that the Conservation Commission support the application of the Essex Land Trust to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program and to submit a letter in favor of the purchase of this property; **SECONDED** by M Reeves; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, M. Reeves, J. Lovelace, R Ward, F Hall; **Opposed:** J. MacMillian; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/1/0.

#### 3. Old Business to include:

##### a. Discuss Plans for April Beaver Event

F Hall distributed a flyer advertising the celebration of beavers which will occur on Saturday, April 8, 2017, Quarry Pond at Viney Hill Brook Park. The Commission will facilitate tours which are advertised to begin at Sunrise and again at Sunset.

F Hall stated that International Beaver Day is celebrated annually on April 7<sup>th</sup>, a tradition which started in 2009. F Hall stated that he would assist in leading the tours and asked members to volunteer.

K Tucker asked F Hall to consider organizing a volunteer committee.

The event will be advertised with flyers at the local establishments in Essex and it will also be placed on the Town's website. F Hall suggested posting the event with the Essex and Ivoryton libraries and the Essex Audubon.

R Ward stated that he will speak with the local radio station to inquire if they will advertise.

**b. VHPB Trail Report and New Year's Day Hike**

J Lovelace, F Hall, and K Tucker participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual New Year day hike which started at 10:00AM, Viney Hill Brook Preserve, followed by a tailgate party.

K Tucker noted that more trail maps are needed.

F Hall stated that while walking the trail into the area of Wollock's Pond he noticed that two outlets on the northeast side of the pond have been dammed up by the beavers.

K Tucker stated that Maria Lucarelli, Assistant to the Selectmen, has called her several times questioning who is in charge of unplugging the beaver dams in Wollock's Pond. K Tucker referred her to Robert Russo, Park and Recreation Commission Chair.

**c. Canfield Meadow Woods and Bushy Hill Preserve updates**

R Ward stated that he has not visited the Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve since prior to Christmas.

**Bushy Hill Preserve** – no report.

**d. Other**

There was no other old business.

**4. New Business**

**a. Budget 2017-2018**

K Tucker stated that the First Selectman has asked the Commission to not increase the budget.

K Tucker stated that this Fiscal Year's remaining funds are needed for the control of the Japanese Knotweed. Clark's Custom Services has given an estimate of \$3,200 for four phases of mowing, log removal and weed whacking to reopen a previously cleared meadow at Bushy Hill Preserve. K Tucker stated that \$5075 has been expended to Clark's Custom Services to date. Clark's Custom services has billed \$300 for work done at Viney Hill Brook Preserve on December 22, 2016 and \$200 for work done at Bushy Hill Preserve on January 4, 2017.

M Reeves suggested that the Commission request an increase of \$1,000 in the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal budget. Members agreed that the only increase from 2017 will be in the amount of \$1000 for maintenance.

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to submit the proposed Conservation Commission 2017/18 budget to the Board of Finance; **SECONDED** by F Hall **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J Lovelace, M. Reeves, R Ward, F. Hall, J MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

**b. Financial Report FYTD 2016-17**

K Tucker stated that there is almost \$6,000 left remaining in the budget. Anticipated Expenditures through the end of the fiscal year include; Beaver Solutions \$300; All Habitat Permits, \$350 plus Japanese Knotweed \$500 treatments; Completion of Phase 1 at Bushy Hill Preserve, \$1,150 and Recording Clerk salary.

**d. Other**

There was no other business.

**5. Inland Wetlands Report – Jeff Lovelace, IWWC Liaison**

J Lovelace stated that Sarah Ayotte, 21 Grove Street withdrew her application to construct a larger home which would encroach on the wetlands.

**6. Review and Approve December 2016 Minutes**

**MOTION** made by F Hall to approve the December 2016 Meeting Minutes with the following amendments; Page 4, amend the vote to reflect that M Reeves nominated and A Forrest seconded the Motion; Page 2, second from last paragraph, "F. Hall stated that the earliest that M. Callahan, Beaver Solutions would install would be May or June 2017 *as long as the pond leveler is working.*" **SECONDED** by M Reeves; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, M. Reeves, F Hall; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** J MacMillian, J. Lovelace, R Ward; **Approved:** 3/0/3.

**7. Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to adjourn the special meeting at 9:25pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on February 9, 2017 at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by J Lovelace ; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J Lovelace, M. Reeves, R Ward, F. Hall, J MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin  
Recording Secretary