

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 Regular Meeting  
Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.  
Town Hall, 29 West Avenue - Room B**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2017 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Kay Tucker  
Rich Helmecki  
Adrienne Forrest  
Mark Reeves  
Frank Hall  
Jerri MacMillian, seated for J Lovelace

**Absent Members**

Jeffrey Lovelace  
Robert Ward

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, R Helmecki, M. Reeves, A Forrest, F. Hall, MacMillian.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Old Business to include:**

**a. Update on Beaver Celebration Day Outreach**

F Hall stated that he placed notice of the April 8, 2017 Beaver Celebration Day Outreach event on the Town's website, and he placed posters in twenty-two locations to include Essex, Ivoryton, Deep River and

Old Saybrook libraries, Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook post office, and a variety of other locations which include the CT River Museum, Valley News Now, Adams grocery store and the Incarnation Center.

F Hall stated that he is scheduled to be interviewed by Rita Christopher of the Valley Courier. F Hall stated that he and R Ward were interviewed by iCRV (Lower CT River Valley) radio on February 3, 2017 on the history of the beavers and the Celebration of the Beavers event. F Hall noted that the broadcast was replayed the following Saturday. iCRV is an internet based radio station that promotes tourism for Lower CT River Valley. F Hall stated that he put out a press release to a website, Beavers: Wetlands & Wildlife.

F Hall stated that he visited Quarry Pond today and he reported that the inflow on the south side of the pond is running quite well and he noted that the level of the pond was slightly elevated. F Hall stated that the action of the beavers cutting down the trees closer to the pond has opened-up the area which will decrease the number of leaves falling into the pond.

**b. Discuss Agenda for April 8 Beaver Celebration**

F Hall stated that the celebration is scheduled for April 8, 2017. There will be two tours, with the first at 6:00 a.m. and the second at 7:00 p.m. On April 8, 2017 sunrise should be at 6:21a.m. and sunset is at 7:24 p.m. There will be beaver fact sheet handouts available for participants. F Hall stated that he set up an email for the event: [essexcelebratesbeavers@gmail.com](mailto:essexcelebratesbeavers@gmail.com). As indicated on the poster, parking is on Cedar Terrace Extension which is the passive parking area. F Hall stated that the inclement weather date is April 9, 2017.

**1. Schedule/Assign Volunteers**

Commissioners discussed scheduling for the April 8<sup>th</sup> Beaver Celebration event and F Hall questioned the need for volunteers signing waivers. Members determined that the signing of waivers would not be necessary.

**2. Other**

There was no other business.

**c. Trail Reports**

**1. Bushy Hill**

R Helmecki visited Bushy Hill Preserve today where he ran into Eli Clark and they discussed mowing within the Preserve which will occur in a few weeks.

R Helmecki reported that there is a huge felled tree in the pond and he reported that some of the slats on the Boy Scout bridges are missing and in need of repair. R Helmecki stated he will attend to the repair of the bridges when the weather warms.

**2. Canfield Meadow Woods**

In the past few years the Commission has discussed the funding of an environmental review grant and Jean Davies is the Environmental Review Team (ERT) Director. The Environmental Review Team will inventory the wildlife and habitat indigenous to the Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve. R. Ward has been in contact with J. Davies to discuss ideas on how the trails can be improved and to discuss management of the woods which is something ERT can promote. R Ward recently sent an email transmission regarding the status of

the application made by the Conservation Commission. J Davies will present at the April 13, 2017 Conservation Commission meeting. K Tucker noted that Tanner Stevens, Deep River is also an ERT contact.

K Tucker stated that she was recently made aware that there were a group of folks hiking the trails with their dogs and it was reported that the hikers were accompanied by 24 or so dogs. At the end of the hike it was reported that one of the dogs had been lost within the Preserve. The Lab was found by another hiker and the un-tethered dog was leashed by the hiker until the owner retrieved him.

### **3. Viney Hill Brook Preserve**

K Tucker visited Viney Hill Brook Preserve on February 20<sup>th</sup> and she indicated that all of the bog bridges were covered with snow and the area that intersects Broadwalk was totally flooded. K Tucker reported that the passive parking lot had not been plowed. K Tucker contacted the Town Hall and they agreed to plow the parking lot. K Tucker stated that she walked Wollock's Pond and the drains have been maintained and the water flow was good.

#### **d. Other**

There was no other old business.

### **4. New Business**

#### **a. Pick up after your pet receptacles for Preserves**

K Tucker stated that a Town employee contacted her to inform that the Town has received complaints related to people who are not picking up after their dogs. David Caroline, Essex Town Crew Foreman suggested the installation of pet receptacles. The Commission is not in favor of the installation of the pet receptacles and it is the feeling of the Commission to allow nature to take its course.

#### **b. Other**

K Tucker stated that she contacted All Habitat Services for estimates on the removal of the Japanese knotweed and Phragmite control within Quarry Hill Pond and to assess the mosquito population within Bushy Hill Preserve.

### **5. Financial Report FYTD**

K Tucker reported that there is \$5,637 left remaining in this fiscal year budget and this balance has been encumbered for anticipated services.

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to accept the \$330 contract from Beaver Solutions, LLC to conduct the annual maintenance inspection of the fence and the pond leveler; **SECONDED** by A Forrest; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, R Helmecki, M. Reeves, F. Hall, A Forrest, J MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

### **6. Review and Approve January 2017 Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** made by J MacMillian to approve the January 2017 Special Meeting Minutes with the following amendments; Page 2, third paragraph to correct the spelling of *GLEN*: "P Greenberg stated that there are two properties in Deep River that the Essex property connects to, and "James *Glen*" is one of the nicest properties owned by the Essex Land Trust"; **SECONDED** by M Reeves; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, M. Reeves, F Hall, A Forrest, R Helmecki, J MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

## **7. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by F Hall to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on April 13, 2017 at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by J MacMillian; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, R Helmecki, M. Reeves, F. Hall, A Forrest, J MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin  
Recording Secretary