

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, April 13, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on April 13, 2017 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Kay Tucker  
Robert Ward  
Adrienne Forrest  
Mark Reeves  
Frank Hall

**Absent Members**

Jeffrey Lovelace  
Richard Helmecki  
Jerri MacMillian

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

Audience: James Scott

**1. Call to Order**

K. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Seated for the meeting were K. Tucker, R Ward, M. Reeves, A Forrest, F. Hall.

**2. Public Comment**

James Scott was in the audience and indicated that he is looking to volunteer and to become involved with the Town.

**3. Old Business to include:**

**a. Environmental Review Team Request – April 2013 and Current Status**

At the April meeting, the Commission 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 submitted an application to the Environmental Review Team and K Tucker signed and entered into an agreement with the ERT for Canfield Meadow Woods. Participating in the services of the ERT are the Deep River Conservation Commission, the Essex Land Trust and the Essex Conservation Commission. The ERT is in-process of putting together a team and working statewide to find volunteers. The ERT will walk the property, take an inventory and then offer a plan and advice as to what can be done to enhance the preserve. R Ward indicated that the goal is to enhance the ecological integrity and highlight the educational value.

**b. Recap Beaver Day Celebration**

F Hall thanked the Commission for their support in the April 8, 2017 Beaver Celebration Day Outreach event. There were approximately 40 people in attendance and there were four different tours between Saturday and Monday. F Hall stated that the tours went very well and the response of both the participants and the beavers exceeded expectations. F Hall suggested for next year, three evening sessions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

F Hall reported that the beavers have chewed a portion of one of the bog bridges which will require repair.

**c. Trail Reports**

**Bushy Hill Preserve**

M. Reeves stated that he walked through with Eli Clark to review the progress of the first mowing of the large meadow. M Reeves and R Helmecki showed E Clark the small saplings that are to be removed. E Clark will also restack and relocate the felled logs and bring the brush and the debris to the dump.

K Tucker reported that the large tree that fell into the pond was removed, however she is uncertain as to who took it away.

F Hall stated that he was approached about a section of a birch tree that fell at Quarry pond, from someone who was looking to remove the birch wood. K tucker stated that in the past she was informed by town officials that it is a liability to have the public traversing on the Town and State property for the purpose of removing trees/wood.

K Tucker stated that a large tree has fallen within Bushy Hill that needs to be cut back.

**Viney Hill Brook Preserve**

M Reeves stated that the area just past the passive parking lot is very wet. R Ward cleared the drainage ditch and there is good flow going out now.

F Hall will meet Mike Callahan, Beaver Solutions LLC on April 19<sup>th</sup>. M Callahan will conduct the annual maintenance inspection of the fence and the pond leveler at Quarry pond and do some work at Wollock's pond. M Reeves stated that the exclusion fence which was installed by M Callahan is working flawlessly.

**Canfield Meadow Woods**

R Ward reported that the Tulip tree within Canfield is rotting. R Ward stated that the stairs at the entry to the Book Hill Road side of Canfield Meadow Woods has been repaired and he noted that a good deal of work was done at the Dennison Road side as well.

**d. Other**

There was no other business.

**4. New Business**

**a. All Habitat Services Contract Proposals**

K Tucker reported that an annual DEEP permit for each of the proposed projects provided by All Habitat Services is required at a cost of \$350. Two applications for the Knotweed herbicide is recommend at \$400 each. If needed, a phragmite application is at the cost of \$250 each, for a total of \$1650. K Tucker reported that there is a \$150 fee for the aduicide application and members asked K Tucker to authorize the work.

**5. Other**

There was no other business.

**6. Financial Report and Expenditures**

K Tucker reported that she has not received the \$1750 bill from E Clark services and that the Commission has not yet received a current worker's compensation liability Certificate of Insurance from the Clarks.

K Tucker stated that the Conservation Commission will receive monies owed to the Commission from the Essex Land Trust in the amount of \$500 and she asked members for recommendations on which projects would most benefit from the \$500. R Ward suggested the construction of a kiosk for the beavers.

**7. Review and Approve March 2017 Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** made by K tucker to approve the March 2017 Special Meeting Minutes with the following amendment; 1) Page 2, under item b, second to the last sentence to read "*Cedar Grove Terrace*";

**SECONDED** by A Forrest; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, R Ward, M. Reeves, F Hall, A Forrest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

**8. Correspondence**

A letter of thanks for the Beaver Day Celebration from Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O'Sullivan, Killingworth with a donation of \$50 to the Town of Essex toward the beaver habitat.

K Tucker thanked J Scott for attending this evening's meeting and encouraged him to speak with the first selectman regarding the vacancy for an alternate member on the Conservation Commission.

**9. Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by F Hall to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on May 11, 2017 at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by M Reeves; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, R Ward, M. Reeves, F. Hall, A Forrest; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin  
Recording Secretary