

Essex Conservation Commission

Town of Essex
29 West Avenue
Essex, CT 06426

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – November 10, 2011

Call to Order

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on November 10, 2011 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall. Members in attendance were Jeff Lovelace, Acting Chair, Doug Demarest, Goody LeLash, Pam Bernardini, Rich Helmecki, and Ron Skinner, Alternate. Also in attendance, Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

Mr. Lovelace called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Review and Approval of the October 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes:

The Minutes from the October 13, 2011 meeting were reviewed and the following change was suggested.

Page 4, first line: insert a comma after the word April and comma after the word firm.

Motion made by Goody LeLash to approve the October 13, 2011 Minutes as amended.

Motion seconded by Pam Bernardini and passed unanimously. Motion carried 5/0.

Old Business:

Bushy Hill Park – Cleanup Sunday, October 30, 2011

Mr. Helmecki reported that the snow storm converged upon the state before the work party was to take place. After a brief discussion, members rescheduled the cleanup to Sunday, November 20, 2011.

Mr. Helmecki reported that he repaired the mailbox and he had one plank left remaining which he used to replace on the bridge. There is one plank remaining to be repaired. Mr. Helmecki stated that he will pick up more boards so as to have available for the other bridges in need of repair.

Goody LeLash spoke with Al Macgregor in conjunction with the Essex Land Trust regarding the felled trees. It was noted that all of the trees along the red and green trail and along the intersection have been cut up.

Viney Hill Brook Park All Habitat Services

Commission members Doug Demarest and Jeff Lovelace surveyed the situation at Broadbrook and met with Joe Budrow, Essex Wetlands Enforcement Officer regarding the same.

Mr. Budrow indicated that he would speak with the Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and take on this project for the pipe installation. Mr. Lovelace stated that he has not heard back from Mr. Budrow as yet.

Mr. Demarest reported that the drainage pipe which has a cage attached to the end of it is working well. Mr. Demarest spoke with Mr. Budrow regarding the possibility of extending this pipe. Mr. Budrow stated that in order to extend the pipe to 12 feet the Conservation Commission must apply for an Inland Wetlands Permit. Mr. Lovelace stated that in its current state the pipe continues to work well.

Viney Hill Brook Park Forest Glen Trail Markers

Mr. Demarest reported that the trail markers are completed and available. Mr. Demarest was not sure if the installation of holes were necessary on the trail markers. It was noted that the holes should be drilled so that the markers are in a diamond shape. Mr. Demarest will drill the holes on the markers. Mr. Demarest reported that the markers are purple.

Mr. Demarest, Mr. Helmecki and Mr. Helmecki will put up the markers on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Status of New Maps

Mr. Lovelace distributed a draft of the Viney Hill Brook Park/Preserve maps which were created by Anne Penniman Associates. The current maps are yellow in color and the new maps will be created on off-white colored, recycled paper.

Mr. Lovelace distributed a draft of the Bushy Hill Nature Preserve maps. The new maps are positioned a way so that north faced to the top. The right-of-way was added at Oakledge Drive and there is a triangle symbol which was added to the legend and relates to trail access. Also a trail access was added where Winthrop Hill Road is located.

Mr. Helmecki reported that Hemlock Road which is part of the red trail should be reflected as closer to where the "#2" is reflected on the map.

Members expressed their satisfaction with the maps.

CT Assoc. of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Conference

The CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. will conduct the 34th annual Meeting and Environmental Conference *Celebrating Five Decades of Environmental Conservation and Habitat Protection* on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at MountainRidge High Hill Rd. in Wallingford, CT from 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. In a discussion at the October 13th Conservation Commission meeting, Commissioner Susan Malan indicated that she might be available to attend this Conference. Ms. LeLash indicated that she would contact Ms. Malan to see if she is able to attend.

Viney Hill Brook Park Essex Land Trust Event, Saturday November 26, 2011

The Essex Park and Recreation event that the Essex Land Trust is promoting will occur on Saturday, November 26, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Former first Selectman, Phillip Miller will lead the 10am hike through Viney Hill Brook Park. A plunge into the Viney Hill Brook Park pond will follow the walk.

Other

Ms. Pleva noted that the Gateway Commission will present on December 8, 2011 to the Essex Planning and Conservation Commissions. This presentation will lead the regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex Conservation Commission. The Planning Commission and the Essex IWWC will join the Conservation Commission for this discussion.

Ms. Pleva stated that she spoke briefly with John Guskowski, Essex Town Planner regarding this presentation. Mr. Guskowski suggested that Ms. Pleva contact Torrance Downes to discuss the likelihood of issuing a press release to invite the public.

Mr. Lovelace stated that he thought that this was to be an informational meeting for the Town Commissions. After a brief discussion, members agreed to not issue a press release.

Ms. Pleva learned recently that the access point on Novelty Lane had been remodeled and that the Harbor Commission and the Town of Essex are responsible for the transformation. Ms. Pleva stated that the area looks great.

New Business:

No new business.

IWWC Report Goody LeLash:

Ms. LeLash stated that she was away for the November 1, 2011 regularly scheduled Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission meeting. Ms. LeLash stated that her term as liaison to the Essex IWWC is up in December. Ms. LeLash expressed her wish to have another Conservation Commission member step up and serve as the liaison.

Ms. Pleva asked if it is a requirement that a Conservation Commission member serve as a liaison to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Members were uncertain of this requirement and it was suggested that Ms. Tucker would have the details on this information.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Motion made by Doug Demarest to adjourn.

Motion seconded by MaryAnn Pleva and passed unanimously. Motion carried 5/0.

The regular meeting of the Essex Conservation Commission adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex Conservation Commission will be conducted on December 8, 2011 after the Gateway Commission presentation.