



TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

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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

Jim O'Brien

Unapproved

**Minutes Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.**

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

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Jeffrey Lovelace
Robert Ward
Richard Helmecki
Jim O'Brien

Absent Members

Frank Hall
Jim O'Brien
Adrienne Forrest
Mark Reeves

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. Seated for the meeting were K. Tucker, J Lovelace, R Helmecki, R Ward, J O'Brien seated for A Forrest.

K Tucker reported that the term will expire in December for Commissioner Robert Ward. R Ward stated that he will not seek another term on the Conservation Commission and K Tucker thanked Mr. Ward for his service to the Commission.

2. Review and Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2017

MOTION made by J Lovelace to approve the Minutes of the October 12, 2017 Regular Meeting with the following amendment: 1) Page 2, under Rockfall Foundation; "R Ward completed the preliminary work related to the Rockfall Foundation Grant application to include *comprises* four educational post signs", strike "comprises"; **SECONDED** by R Helmecki; **Voting in Favor:** K. Tucker, J Lovelace, R Helmecki, R Ward, J O'Brien; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Old Business to Include:

a. Update on Rockfall Foundation Grant Application

R Ward reported that he submitted the application which included the edits from A Forrest and F Hall. R Ward stated that he will be contacted by the end of the month by the Foundation with a determination.

b. Tulip Tree and Canfield Meadow Woods Maintenance

J Lovelace reported that on Wednesday, October 18th, he, K Tucker and M Reeves spent a good deal of the afternoon cutting saplings in and around the Tulip tree with good results. J Lovelace and K Tucker did a small amount of cutting in the area of the Viewing Stand.

K Tucker reported that she met a woman who was walking her dog and chatted about Turtle Creek which is the purview of the CT Nature Conservancy who is no longer allowing dogs. The woman informed that she had received a letter saying don't pay any attention to the "no dogs" allowed signs.

R Ward reported that he, Tanner Stevens and John Guskowski received a letter from Jean Davies, Director of the Environmental Review Team (ERT). Through funding of an environmental review grant, the Environmental Review Team was to inventory the wildlife and habitat indigenous to the Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve and R. Ward had been in contact with J. Davies to discuss ideas on how the trails could be improved and to discuss management of the woods which is something ERT was to promote. Earlier in the year, the Deep River Conservation Commission submitted an application to the ERT and K Tucker co-signed on behalf of the Essex Conservation Commission to enter into an agreement with the ERT for Canfield Meadow Woods. J Davies stated that she intends to honor the Commission's request to the ERT to complete open space management for Canfield Meadow Woods with funding that the ERT is pursuing through the Rockfall Foundation grant.

C. Viney Hill Brook Preserve

J Lovelace reported on the Wetlands Enforcement Official's administrative approval for the application submitted by the Conservation Commission which was effective September 25, 2017 for remediation work and installation of a beaver control device within Wollock's Pond and Viney Hill Brook Park.

J Lovelace reported that he walked the Preserve on Wednesday and he stated that the trails are in good shape and he noted that the beavers have been extremely active.

R Helmecki suggested wrapping the trees.

d. Bushy Hill Preserve

R Helmecki reported that he has not visited Bushy Hill.

e. Other

K Tucker stated commented on the October 2017 letter sent by the Conservation Commission to the Essex Planning Commission and its Chair, Alan Kerr and Essex Town Planner, John Guskowski, to the Zoning Commission and its Chair, Al Wolfgram in which K Tucker requested that the Conservation Commission to be notified when new subdivision proposals are received by the Town. K Tucker hand delivered the letter and J Budrow indicated that he would keep this letter on file. The letter is attached to these Minutes and made a part of the record.

K Tucker reported that M Reeves will renew his term with the Conservation Commission.

J Lovelace reported on the September 26, 2017 letter which was sent to the Essex Planning Commission and its Chair, Alan Kerr, to the Essex Town Planner, John Guskowski and copied to Essex IWWC and its Chair, Fred Szufnarowski, Essex Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Joe Budrow and to the Essex Land Trust regarding Application for Subdivision Modification/Activity in Conservation Easement at 9 Foxboro Road and Land Use Application 17-10 which was before the Planning Commission. The applicant proposed the installation of a rain garden, a splash pad and a five-foot wide path within the 100-foot upland review area of North Cove. J Lovelace reported that the outcome was that the Planning Commission denied the applicant's request to install a rain garden however approved the foot path through the conservation easement leading to the approved dock.

5. New Business to include:

a. Review and Approve 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule

MOTION made by J Lovelace to approve the 2018 Conservation Commission Schedule which includes January 2019 for submission to Joel Marzi, Town Clerk; **SECONDED** by R Helmecki; **Voting in Favor:** K. Tucker, J Lovelace, R Helmecki, R Ward, J O'Brien; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

b. Discuss Priorities For 2017-2018

K Tucker stated that the Commission's biggest priority is to decide what to do about the new pond situation as related to the beaver activity within Viney Hill Brook Preserve.

K Tucker asked members to meet at the passive parking lot on Thursday, November 16th at 10am to cut down the autumn olive and to assess the area in which the beavers have been active to determine as to how to move forward.

c. Other

K Tucker asked members if they would like to conduct the 12th annual New Year's Day walk. Members were uncertain of their schedules and K Tucker suggested further discussion at the December meeting.

6. Financial Report

K Tucker reported that the invoices from Clark's Custom Services in the amount of \$360 for services within Viney Hill Brook Park and an invoice in the amount of \$360 for services within Bushy Hill Preserve have been paid. K Tucker reported on receipt of an invoice for October services for mowing Viney Hill Brook Preserve and Bushy Hill Preserve totaling \$270.

K Tucker stated that she received notice from All Habitat in which it is stated that this is the best time of the year to mow the Japanese Knotweed and then treat the invasive in the spring at a cost of \$550.

MOTION made by R Helmecki to reimburse K Tucker from the office budget the amount of \$9.80 for stamps; **SECONDED** by J Lovelace; **Voting in Favor:** K. Tucker, J Lovelace, R Helmecki, R Ward, J O'Brien; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

7. Inland/Wetlands Report

J Lovelace – no report.

8. Correspondence

K Tucker asked members to review the letter from Herb Muller in which he points out and discusses the different areas within Bushy Hill.

9. Adjournment

MOTION made by J Lovelace to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on December 14, 2017 at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by R Helmecki; **Voting in Favor:** K. Tucker, J Lovelace, R Helmecki, R Ward, J O'Brien; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin