



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
Mark J. Reeves
Jim O'Brien*

Alternate Member

(2) Vacancies

Unapproved

**Minutes Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 12, 2018 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Frank Hall
Richard Helmecki
Jim O'Brien
Mark Reeves arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Absent Members

Jeffrey Lovelace
Adrienne Forrest

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, F Hall, R Helmecki, J O'Brien, M Reeves who joined the meeting at 7:50pm.

2. Review and Approve the January 11, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by J O'Brien to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented: **SECONDED** by R Helmecki; **Voting in Favor:** K. Tucker, J O'Brien, R Helmecki, F Hall; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment

4. Discuss Need for Detail in Monthly Minutes

F Hall questioned the importance of the level of detail in the monthly Minutes, noting the importance of capturing the Record of the Vote and the financial information. A brief discussion ensued and it was determined that the Minutes are not overly detailed and that they interject the correct amount of information touching upon the high points. Discussion to be continued.

5. Old Business to Include:

A. Viney Hill Brook Preserve – Reports on Trails, Projects and Remediation

F Hall reported that he visited the Preserve in the past few days and he stated that it was wet in the area of the junction. There were a number of felled trees resulting from the wind and ice storms. F Hall stated that if the Commission would like to improve transit of people through the area, the most cost-efficient approach would be to build more bog bridges.

K Tucker stated that she visited the Preserve this week and reported that there is no access around the Quarry Pond trail. The area that goes up to the junction is totally flooded in the area where the bog bridge begins.

1. Discuss Beaver Celebration Event – Schedule or Postpone and Clean up Requirements

F Hall stated as the Month of May approaches, the sun sets closer to 8pm, a time of the evening that may be prohibitive for people wishing to visit and witness the beavers in their habitat. Members agreed to delay the Beaver Celebration to September when the sunset occurs earlier in the evening.

K Tucker reported on the Essex Land Trust workshop at which one of the presenters commented on a person who incurred a beaver bite in 2016. It was noted that the kits are born in May and June and the beavers were likely protecting their kits.

2. Schedule Treatment of Autumn Olive Stumps, Cleanup and Maintenance

Members will meet at the passive parking area on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. for work party to treat the autumn olive stumps.

3. Other

K Tucker stated that she walked Viney Hill Brook Preserve with Brian Walsh, Essex Town Crew. They traversed up the CL&P road and turned left bringing them onto Broadwalk, which is where the Town Crew will build a sliding gate. M Reeves suggested the installation of a sliding gate at the Passive parking lot.

B. Bushy Hill Preserve

1. Schedule Walk-through and Trail Maintenance

R Helmecki reported that he walked the Preserve and all looked good. Phase II has been completed.

K Tucker reported that the Hemlocks in the vicinity of the Falls River area came down in the wind storm.

K Tucker reported that there is a fallen limb at Oak Ledge access trail

C. Canfield Meadow Woods

No report.

D. Amend Conservation Commission By Laws

Discussion on the amendment of Conservation Commission By Laws to change the day of the week for the meeting. The regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Commission have been conducted on the second Thursday of the month for some time. As per article 6 section 1, the By Laws currently state that the regular meeting of the Conservation Commission will occur on the first Thursday of the month at the Essex Town Hall. Members agreed to table the discussion until such time that there is full membership present at the meeting.

MOTION made M Reeves to table the approval of Agenda item 5D, Section 1, of the Conservation Commission By Laws to change the regularly scheduled meeting from the first Thursday of the month to the second Thursday of the month; **SECONDED** by F Hall; **Voting in Favor:** K. Tucker, J O'Brien, R Helmecki, F Hall, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

E. Other

No other business.

6. New Business

K Tucker stated that the Town of Essex has created an application which is to be completed by a prospective candidate who has an interest in serving on an Essex Board or Commission.

7. Financial Report

K Tucker reported that at the end of March 2018 there was \$6,000 left remaining in the general account. A bill was received from Clark's Custom Services for mowing for Phase II, and included additional work to include wood stacking for \$350 and brush clean-up for \$570, totaling \$2070. K Tucker has authorized the Treasurer to pay \$1150 to Clark's Custom Services, which was the Phase II amount that was quoted.

MOTION made by M Reeves to approve Clark's Custom Services invoice as follows: the amount of \$350 for wood stacking and the amount of \$570 for brush clean up, Phase II at Bushy Hill Preserve for Meadow Cleaning; **SECONDED** by J O'Brien; **Voting in Favor:** K. Tucker, J O'Brien, F Hall, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** R Helmecki; **Approved:** 4/0/1.

Discussion: The Commission agreed that there should be a clear understanding of what services are to be rendered at the time of service and extraneous services are to be cleared by the Commission prior to the service.

K Tucker stated that the remaining \$4,925 in funds have been encumbered for the following: All Habitat services, Clerk services, Malcarne Inventory services, mapping costs, Beaver Solutions and Clark's Custom Services.

K Tucker stated that the Town budget for FY 2018-19 has not yet been voted on.

8. Other

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

MOTION made by M Reeves to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm until the May 10, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by J O'Brien; **Voting in Favor:** K. Tucker, J O'Brien, M Reeves, F Hall, R Helmecki, ; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin