



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, June 14, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2018 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Kay Tucker  
Jeffrey Lovelace  
Richard Helmecki  
Frank Hall  
Adrienne Forrest  
Jim O'Brien  
Mark Reeves

**Absent Members**

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

Audience: Jim Denham, Essex Land Trust.

**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, F Hall, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves.

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to move Item 4) Old Business, A. Maps ahead on the agenda: **SECONDED** by J Lovelace; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, F Hall, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0.

**4. Old Business**

**A Maps**

J Lovelace introduced Jim Denham, Essex Land Trust (ELT). J Lovelace stated that it is the hope of the Conservation Commission, in collaboration with the Essex Land Trust to create a map on Viney Hill Brook Park, Bushy Hill Preserve and on Canfield Meadow Woods.

J Denham stated that it has been 10 years since the ELT updated maps and trail guides and he noted that over the past several years there have been a number of land acquisitions by the Town and by the ELT.

J Denham stated that in 2018 the ELT will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> year since inception and in lieu of a party or celebration, the ELT would like to focus on update of their maps, and to that end they have created a relationship with a map maker. The cost of each map is \$300 and the ELT has budgeted for 25 maps at approximately \$7500 with total budget of \$15,000 for design of the maps and design work of the booklet, production of 1,200 of the map booklets, update of the website, and the posters for the different kiosks on the various properties. J Denham stated that any contributions toward this project would be appreciated. J Denham noted that the idea behind the collaboration is to offer a common look at all of the Town properties. J Denham stated that he will coordinate the printing of the new brochure with a map included and make them available to the public. J Denham stated that he would like to install the stated maps on an app such as "Maplets" for ease of use by the public. J Denham discussed various options for the layout of the brochures and maps. J Denham stated that he would like to finalize and complete the production of the maps by the end of summer.

K Tucker thanked J Denham for the presentation. J Lovelace volunteered to serve as the Commission point person to the ELT in conjunction with this project.

## **B Status of and Maintenance in:**

### **1 Viney Hill Brook Preserve**

F Hall reported that he visited the Preserve today and from the entrance to the intersection of Turtle Trail, Broadwalk and Quarry Pond Trail the grass is about three feet high and the lower area continues to be flooded. F Hall stated that the trail on the east side of Quarry Pond has not been maintained.

K Tucker reported that she emailed Eli Clark, Clark's Custom Services and asked him to forward any work done along with anticipated work and associated costs, however she has not received a response. K Tucker will pursue.

F Hall commented on M Callahan's (Beaver Solutions) May 17, 2018 visit. In the area of the intersection of Broadwalk and Quarry Pond Trail (which moving forward will be referenced as "the intersection") M. Callahan noted that if gravel is placed, over time the beavers will move the gravel and M. Callahan recommended the placement of a PVC pipe across the area that is flooded with gravel placed on either side of it.

### **2 Bushy Hill Preserve**

R Helmecki reported that he visited Bushy Hill Preserve on June 13<sup>th</sup> and the chain was off the two hooks and the gate was down. He walked the Blue trail and he noted that a tree was down. M Reeves will send pictures of the felled tree to J Budrow, Essex Zoning Enforcement Officer.

### **3 Canfield Meadow Woods**

K Tucker reported that she asked Roger Fields for an update. Most of the area from the platform has been cleared and there are several hours of work left remaining to be accomplished.

## **C Other**

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to amended and adopt on June 14, 2018 the Conservation Commission bylaws to establish the meeting date to be conducted on the second Thursday of each month; **SECONDED** by A.

Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, F Hall, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0.

J Lovelace reported that within Viney Hill Brook Park the Birch trees have endured serious damage and have fallen on the trail particularly in the area of the purple trail. K Tucker suggested that the Town crew be employed to cut back the felled trees.

K Tucker distributed an article on Japanese Knotweed and a method of eradication to include culinary control of invasives.

## **2. Review and Approve the May 10, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to approve the Minutes of the May 10, 2018 Regular Meeting with the following amendment: 1) last page, first paragraph to read "*weather permitting*": **SECONDED** by A Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, F Hall, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0.

## **3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

## **5. New Business**

There was no new business.

## **6. Financial Report**

### **A. Encumbrances**

K Tucker reported on Commission's budget and funds through the end of May 2018 related to preauthorized expenditures.

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to reimburse Frank Hall the amount \$37.50 related to out of pocket expenditure for the Essex Printing bill for developmental work of layout and design of a poster; the reimbursement will be drawn from the beaver escrow fund: **SECONDED** by J O'Brien; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, F Hall, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0.

## **7. Inland Wetlands Liaison Report**

J Lovelace reported on the IWWC June 12th meeting at which time a Permit was granted for the installation of a swimming pool 50 feet from North Cove for property situated at 15 Riverview Street.

M Reeves suggested that the Commission conduct a fact-finding walk through Viney Hill Brook Preserve on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 3:00pm. Members will meet at Passive parking lot.

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by A Forrest to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm until the July 12, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by M Reeves; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, F Hall, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin