



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, July 12, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.**

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

**Attending Members**

Kay Tucker  
Jeffrey Lovelace  
Adrienne Forrest  
Jim O'Brien  
Mark Reeves

**Absent Members**

Rich Helmecki  
Frank Hall

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

Audience: New Commissioner Roger Field

**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, A Forrest, J O'Brien, and M Reeves.

**2. Welcome New Commissioner**

K Tucker welcomed Roger Field and requested that he visit the Town Clerk to be sworn in.

**3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**4. Review and Approve June 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** made by J O'Brien to approve the Minutes of the June 14, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented: **SECONDED** by A Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

**MOTION** made by J O'Brien to move Item 7, Financial Report up on the Agenda: **SECONDED** by A Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

## **7. Financial Report**

K Tucker stated that there was a deficit to this year's Conservation Commission fiscal year end budget. Tucker stated that an unanticipated, but needed expenditure, for York Raking (Phase 2) in Bushy Hill Preserve to Clark's Custom Services Invoice may have added to the 2017-2018 deficits. K Tucker stated that the Commission contracted with Beaver Solutions, LLC, in January, 2018, to inspect the Quarry Pond and Right of Way Road beaver exclusion fences; this expenditure was issued through the Commission's budget when, in fact, a portion of that expenditure could have been withdrawn from the Town's Beaver Escrow Fund.

M Reeves stated that the Board of Selectmen should be made aware of the maintenance and increased costs associated with the ongoing beaver issue and factor the additional funding needed into the Commission's upcoming budgets.

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to table to the November 2018 meeting further discussion related to Beaver Solutions, LLC., annual maintenance fee to inspect the pond leveler and exclusion fence for Quarry Pond and to discuss the possibility of Beaver Solutions conducting a drive-by inspection for the equipment under the Right of Way Road on Cedar Grove Terrace: **SECONDED** by A Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

K Tucker presented an overview of the Commission's expenditures for Bushy Hill and Viney Hill Brook Preserves. On-going expenses are for All Habitat Services relating to inspections and larvicide treatments and for professional herbicide treatments and mowing of Japanese Knotweed and Phragmites. Clark's Custom Services is hired for routine mowing and professional maintenance in both preserves. Additional expenses include part-time administrative services, an annual up-dated conservation easement inventory, and minor miscellaneous.

### **Old Business to Include:**

#### **A. Maintenance Viney Hill Brook Preserve**

##### **1. Current Conditions and Trail Reports**

J O'Brien stated that on June 19, he, R Helmecki, M Reeves, K Tucker and F Hall conducted a work party at Viney Hill Brook Preserve where they trimmed shrubs and elevated low hanging limbs on the trails and cleaned up the area around Broadwalk on the detour trail. J O'Brien stated that the area is soggy and boggy. Hall and O'Brien carried one of the bog bridges, located near the Eagle Scout Bridge, and placed the bridge along the intersection allowing hikers to access without walking through many inches of water.

J Lovelace reported he walked the Red Trail and around Quarry pond and reported that the leveler is working well; Lovelace noted that the area needs weed-whacking. J Lovelace stated that he walked in the area of "Tucker Pond" and the beavers have been busy cutting down trees. J. Lovelace walked the Forest Glen Trail, found that the trail has been mowed but that additional clean-up is needed. J Lovelace stated that he removed five ticks from his person after walking the trails. J Lovelace provided photos of the affected areas which are attached and made a part of these Minutes.

M Reeves suggested that if the Commission decides that they are going to keep the trails open and continue use as a park, the Commission might consider looking into the cost and ramifications of spraying as a method of tick control.

J O'Brien will investigate tick repelling clothing

A Forrest noted that sulfur powder also repels ticks. J Lovelace reported that he has used sawyer permethrin as a tick repellent

K Tucker stated that a work party will gather in early fall to cut the Autumn Olive which is growing down Broadwalk going toward the upland trail.

**B. Maintenance Bushy Hill Preserve**

**1. Current Conditions and Trail Reports**

No report.

**C. Maintenance Canfield Meadow Woods**

**1. Current Conditions and Trail Reports**

J O'Brien stated that he walked Canfield Meadow Woods utilizing the trail map and everything looked good on the trails. J O'Brien pointed out some confusing details on the map in current use. J O'Brien will discuss the specific locations with which he found discrepancy with R Field who is also a member of the Essex Land Trust.

**D. Discuss Projects and Assistance from Valley Warriors 2018-19 School Year**

K Tucker reported on a school curriculum program at Valley Regional High School relating to community service projects and asked the commissioners to make suggestions to be requested.

M Reeves stated that assistance with the construction of bog bridges would be helpful. A clearing party would also be beneficial.

K Tucker suggested a study of the stone walls which will be mapped by the Essex Land Trust. K Tucker suggested that the VRHS students be organized to delineate and measure the stone walls, to photograph or sketch interesting sections throughout the area, to clear small shrubs and trees around the walls, to repair the walls, if needed, and to identify the type of rocks used for building the walls. K. Tucker suggested that the discussion be tabled to the August meeting. In the meantime, Ms. Tucker will contact VRHS for more details.

## E. Other

K Tucker opened the floor for discussion on the new fiscal year budget.

M. Reeves stated that the biggest issue at Viney Hill Brook Preserve is drainage at the intersection between the Blue Quarry Pond and Broadwalk Trails. M Reeves asked if the Commission wants to try to remedy the flooding or allow the newly created "Tucker Pond" and the increased ground water to remain. The easiest way to allow water to drain into Quarry Pond is to dig trenches through Broadwalk. M Reeves distributed sketches of the location in which the drainage troughs can be installed. A brief conversation occurred relating to retaining Robert Doane, P.E., the cost of materials, etc.

A Forrest suggested that an application and this proposal be presented to the Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission. M Reeves will speak with the Inland/Wetlands Officer and move forward with Application to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission for permitting to install the drainage troughs.

**MOTION** made by J Lovelace for M. Reeves to proceed with the project at the intersection of the Blue Trail and Broadwalk to alleviate the ponding problem in that area; **SECONDED** by J O'Brien; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Reminder to F Hall to schedule Beaver night.

### 5. New Business to Include:

A. **Schedule Work Projects** - Previously discussed.

### B. Other

There was no other business.

## 8. Inland Wetlands Report

Jeff Lovelace, IWWC Liaison reported the IWWC met Tuesday, July 10, 2018 and **Application No. 18-3 – Dickon Pownall-Gray, 17 Riverview Street** was approved. This was an application to locate in-ground swimming pool 50-feet from North Cove and a portion of a septic system within 79-feet of North Cove.

## 9. Adjournment

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm until the August 9, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by A Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin



