



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
Adrienne Forrest, Secretary

Regular Members

Frank Hall
Richard Helmecki
Mark J. Reeves
Jim O'Brien

Alternate Member

Roger Field
Jacob Wlochowski

Unapproved

Minutes Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2019 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
M Reeves
F Hall
J O'Brien
J Wlochowski, seated

Absent Members

Jeffrey Lovelace
A Forest
R Helmecki
R Field

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 O'Brien, M Reeves, F Hall, J Wlochowski.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Review and Approve March 14, 2019 Minutes

MOTION made by F Hall to approve the Minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting with the following amendments: 1) Page 2, correct the spelling to read *Jae* (not Jay); 2) Page 3, change moving to *mowing*; **SECONDED** by J O'Brien; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O'Brien, M Reeves, F Hall, J Wlochowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

4. Old Business to include:

A Report on installation/removal of non-authorized trail grates Viney Hill Brook Preserve

K Tucker reported that she and R Helmecki walked Forest Glade Trail with State Resident Trooper David Tretter to inspect areas of the trail system where unauthorized grates had been laid to allow bicycle riders to enter and traverse the Purple Trail. Officer Tretter investigated and reported that he spoke with a student who said he did not know he was intruding on Town-owned property, that he had not seen the DEEP sign which states that bicycles are not allowed, and that he will remove the grates. The situation is being monitored with the expectation that the grates will be removed and bikers will discontinue riding in the Preserve. The Conservation Commission will attempt to repair the trails gouged out by the bicycle treads. (Photo of unauthorized equipment attached.)

B Viney Hill Brook Preserve Maintenance and status of trails and beaver activity

F Hall reported that he inspected Viney Hill Brook Preserve on April 10th and noted that the Beaver Solutions exclusion fences in Quarry Pond and the Right of Way Road culvert are functioning well. The beaver engineered "Tucker" pond is full of water.

K Tucker noted that the Cedar Grove meadow has been manicured thanks to Foreman Ryan Welch and the Town crew. Dead tree limbs were cut, the meadow mowed, and all fallen branches removed. The area for wildlife is open and extends from the Wildflower Meadow to the passive parking lot on Cedar Grove Terrace. Kay also marked the Autumn Olive trees which the Town crew will mechanically extract before these invasives leaf out.

C Canfield Meadow Woods maintenance and status of trails

R. Field sent an e-mail to be read into the record stating that the Essex Land Trust will install an up-dated map in the Dennison Road parking lot. Plans are being made for a similar map installation at the Book Hill Woods entrance at a later date.

D Bushy Hill maintenance and status of trails

J Wlochowski observed a full parking lot at Bushy Hill Preserve when he biked down Bushy Hill Road. The Preserve gets visitors on a regular basis.

J O'Brien reported that he and R Helmecki repaired the decayed slates in the Eagle Scout Bridge in March.

E Discuss April 27--public tour of Quarry Pond, Beaver Lodges and Pond Building Activities

F Hall reported on the Annual Beaver Day Walking Tour. Hall distributed 25 posters to local businesses and public building inviting the public to attend an evening tour of Quarry Pond, the beaver lodges, and the beaver engineered dam on Broadwalk. (Separate PDF attachment photo of poster)

F Schedule Work Maintenance/Trail Marking in Preserves: To be determined.

G Other

M Reeves and J Lovelace will meet to remove “Detour” and “Beavers at Work” signs. Additionally, M Reeves and J Lovelace will replace the now obsolete yellow trail markers with all purple signage on Forest Glade trail.

Discussion followed regarding a large, updated Viney Hill Brook Park map received from J Denham and the Essex Land Trust. F Hall will obtain quotes on laminating and permanently installing the map at the passive parking area.

5 New Business

MOTION made by M Reeves to send a letter to the US Department of Commerce endorsing the proposal to establish a national Estuarine Research Reserve in areas of Long Island Sound, the Connecticut River and at Bluff Point CT for the purpose of scientific advancement, education and stewardship; **SECONDED** by F Hall; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O’Brien, M Reeves, F Hall, J Wlochowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

6 Financial Report

K Tucker reviewed the expenditures made to date from the 2018/19 Fiscal Year budget. A brief discussion followed on projected expenditures to June 30, 2019.

First Selectman to authorize \$612.00 from Town’s Beaver Escrow Fund to pay Beaver Solutions for inspections at Quarry Pond and Right-of-Way Road culvert. Also, \$43.95 to be debited from Beaver Escrow Fund to pay for Beaver Tour posters.

The town received a recent \$200.00 donation for the Beaver Escrow Fund.

MOTION made by M Reeves to pay \$7.35 for trail paint; **SECONDED** by F Hall; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O’Brien, M Reeves, F Hall, J Wlochowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

7 Adjournment

MOTION made by J Wlochowski to adjourn the meeting at 8:32PM until the May 9, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by F Hall; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O’Brien, M Reeves, F Hall, J Wlochowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Clerk

- **Photo on installation/removal of non-authorized trail grates Viney Hill Brook Preserve**



- **Annual Beaver Day Walking Tour PDF Poster Attached Under Separate Cover**