



TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426
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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, July 11, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

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

Attending Members

K Tucker
R Helmecki
A Forrest
J Lovelace
M Reeves
J O'Brien
R Field, Alternate seated for Frank Hall

Absent Members

F Hall
J Wlochowski, Alternate

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, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J Lovelace, M Reeves, J O'Brien, R Field.

2. Public Comment

No public comment

3. Review and Approve June 13, 2019 Minutes

MOTION made by J O'Brien to approve the Minutes of the June 13 2019 meeting with following amendment; 1) Page 3, Under Adjournment, "until the July **11**, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting";

SECONDED by A Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O'Brien, R Field, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J Lovelace, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion

MOTION made by A Forrest to move item 6. Financial Report up on the Agenda to be discussed before item 4. Old Business; **SECONDED** by M Reeves; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O'Brien, R Field, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J Lovelace, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

6. Financial Report

K Tucker distributed a year-to-date budget report. J Lovelace discussed the current expenses and outstanding funds that are to be encumbered.

4. Old Business to include:

A. Report on Projects and Maintenance

Trail Reports:

1. Bushy Hill Preserve

R Helmecki reported that he spoke with Ely Clark, Clark's Custom Services, who has been doing work at Bushy Hill Preserve and E Clark stated he has not accomplished all services contracted due to broken machinery. His power equipment broke down twice.

2. Canfield Meadow Woods

R Field stated that there have been no further reports of bear sightings at Canfield Meadow Woods. R Field stated that last fall he reported to the ECC that the State had noticed that there were a good deal of mature Oak trees which were dying statewide. R Field stated that he had previously reported that 6 Oak trees were looking distressed and he noted that they all appear to be perfectly healthy now.

R Field reported that he discovered a Tupperware box on one of the trails that contained a notebook with a notation instructing the finder to write their thoughts in the notebook and place back in the Tupperware, leaving it for the next person.

3. Viney Hill Brook Preserve

On June 19, 2019 J Lovelace sent a letter to E Clark requesting that he work on the Blue Trail and clean up brush around the Wolf trees. In his June 19, 2019 letter to E Clark, J Lovelace suggested that the Blue trail be tended from the parking lot and the Orange trail be tended down to the Scout Bridge. The newly marked Purple trail (previously Yellow) and the White trail need chainsaw work.

E Clark reported to J Lovelace that he cleared the tree obstruction across the trail by Quarry pond. Clark also cleared a grassy area abutting Wollock's pond and an area of the wildflower meadow. E Clark reported that he still has weed whacking to do at Forest Glen, along the upland woods trail, and around the footbridges. It took 8 hours (of his allotted 10 hours) to open 500' of the upland woods trail to make the path more visible to hikers.

A Forrest reported that there was a large felled limb in the area just beyond the passive parking lot, and the pathway to the right around the pond is overgrown and not well delineated in the area of the Blue trail. A Forrest reported that the grass at Broadwalk was very high. R Helmecki reported that E Clark stated that he has been concentrating on Viney Hill Brook Preserve, clearing trails and mowing. E Clark widened the White trail.

R Field, R Helmecki and J Lovelace were unable to move the one intact, dry bog bridge resting in the area of Tucker Pond and the ditch. Repositioning the remaining soggy, decayed bog bridges met with limited success. The detour sign was repositioned near the wildflower meadow.

M Reeves suggested signage to alert hikers that the trail system in the Broadwalk area is diminished due to constant beaver activity. The area has become a beaver sanctuary and should be labeled as such. A brief discussion ensued and members agreed to table further discussion.

J Lovelace reported that there is a large patch of Phragmite in the area to the east of Tucker pond.

M Reeves met with a pond expert in Hamden who stated that one of the most effective treatments for Phragmite is Round Up on selective plants giving careful consideration to limited use applications.

R Field stated that there is an American Phragmite which is a desirable plant as opposed to the invasive type.

C. Other – There was no other business.

5. New Business – There was no new business.

7. Adjournment

MOTION made by M Reeves to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM until the August 8, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT;

SECONDED by R Helmecki; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O'Brien, R Field, F Hall, R Helmecki, A Forrest, J Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Clerk