



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, May 9, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2019 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

K Tucker
J Lovelace
A Forrest
R Helmecki
M Reeves joined the meeting at 7:37pm
F Hall
J O'Brien
R Field, Alternate

Absent Members

J Wlochowski, Alternate

Audience: There were no audience members.

K Tucker amended the Agenda under item #3 to read: "Viney Hill Brook Preserve Report on Beaver Tour Quarry Pond."

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 Lovelace, R Helmecki, A Forrest.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Review and Approve April 11, 2019 Minutes

MOTION made by J O'Brien to approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting as presented; **SECONDED** by F Hall; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O'Brien, F Hall; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** J Lovelace, R Helmecki, A Forrest; **Approved:** 3/0/3. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

4. Discuss Mowing, Map and Miscellaneous Expenditures

J Lovelace prepared and distributed the June 2018 through July 1, 2019 fiscal year Grounds Maintenance & Repair budget. A brief discussion ensued on upcoming maintenance for Viney Hill Preserve and Bushy Hill Preserve.

F Hall obtained two quotes on laminating and permanently installing the map at the passive parking area for Viney Hill Brook Park; Computer Signs for a 10.5 x 13.5 sign on laminated metal in the amount of \$48. One Look, Centerbrook provided two quotes; one for a 6mm sign with fiberglass center in the amount of \$122.18, and a second quote for a 3mm sign in the amount of \$102.81.

MOTION made by M Reeves to order one, 21" x 27", 6 mm sign from Computer Signs; **SECONDED** by J O'Brien; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O'Brien, F Hall, J Lovelace, R Helmecki, A Forrest, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

F Hall suggested that a sign for Viney Hill Brook Preserve, Quarry Pond be mounted on the bulletin board situated on the rear entrance wall at the Essex Town Hall adjacent to the parking lot.

Miscellaneous expenditures to include purchase of Round-Up to control Japanese knotweed and other invasives.

M Reeves and K Tucker will meet on Monday, May 13, passive parking area at Viney Hill Brook Preserve at 2:00pm

5. Schedule Preserve Maintenance

M Reeves and J Lovelace will meet on May 13th, Viney Hill Brook Preserve to remove the "Detour" and "Beavers at Work" signs and they will replace the now obsolete yellow trail markers with all purple signage on Forest Glade trail. The yellow trail is now obsolete.

A Trail Reports

1 Canfield Meadow Woods

R Field stated that the trails at Canfield Meadow Woods remain in good shape and the Essex Land Trust installed updated maps at Dennison Road parking and the Book Hill Woods entrance showing the addition of the new trail and new graphics. R Field stated that he will install a new sign reminding dog owners of their responsibility while walking their dogs in the preserve. R Field reported that there will be updated maps at both trail head entrances.

2 Bushy Hill Preserve

R Helmecki reported that he installed the red markers.

3 Viney Hill Brook Preserve

a. Report on Beaver Tour Quarry Pond

F Hall reported on the April 27th beaver day walking tour around Quarry Pond. K Tucker noted that sixteen adults, one teen and three commissioners (no children) attended. F Hall stated that he will put together several slides for the Town's website.

K Tucker reported that it was an excellent beaver tour and she stated that the water levels were high on the day of the tour. K Tucker noted that she returned a few days thereafter and the water levels had receded.

F Hall stated that there is a new book life history of beavers entitled "Eager, the Surprising Secret Life of Beavers and why they Matter".

b. Other

There was no other business.

6. New Business

J Lovelace commented on the June 2019/2020 fiscal year Grounds Maintenance & Repair projected budget which he prepared and distributed. A brief discussion ensued on upcoming maintenance for Viney Hill Preserve and Bushy Hill Preserve. Discussed under item 4, Mowing, Map and Misc Expenditures.

7. Financial Report Year-to-Date

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.

8. Adjournment

MOTION made by J Lovelace to adjourn the meeting at 8:46PM until the June 13, 2019 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 O'Brien, M Reeves, 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