



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, October 10, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2019 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

K Tucker
J Lovelace
R Field, Alternate seated for R Helmecki
J Wlochowski, Alternate seated for A Forrest

Absent Members

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

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 Lovelace, R Field, J Wlochowski.

2. Public Comment

No public comment

3. Executive Session

Tabled.

4. Review and Approve September 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by J Lovelace to approve the Minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting with the following changes; Page 2, fourth paragraph, delete "of the past"; Page 2, Under Trail Reports, note the following: All Habitat did not spray the trails, they *treated the pond*, Page 3, under Item #7, strike "conservation land" and add "*town-owned preserves*"; Page 2, last paragraph under Bushy Hill Preserve, the word "Bayberry" should be

changed to “Barberry”; **SECONDED** by R Field; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, R Field, J Wlochowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

5. Old Business to include:

Kiosk and Installation at Viney Hill Brook Park

J Lovelace reported that Geoff Furtney is building a kiosk for Essex Land Trust and has offered to build a prototype for the Essex Conservation Commission at no charge. The kiosk will be larger than the new Essex Conservation Commission trail map.

Discuss Proposed FY Projects

K Tucker commented on a Project List of items that the Conservation Commission would like to accomplish over this fiscal year to include the following:

- K Tucker reported that members looked at the Bushy Hill entrance to discuss resurfacing/ re-graveling the preserve’s entrance. R Field confirmed that the 400 s.f. of surface needs attention. J Lovelace stated that the area needs to be raked. K Tucker commented on the wet spots and noted that even if trap rock were to be laid down the water source will still seep to the surface. K Tucker stated that she would like to see some of the ruts filled with stone. R Field suggested that the Commission obtain an estimate for delivery and the cost to spread the materials based on the measurement of 50 feet by 8 feet with 400 s.f. of coverage. K Tucker previously obtained pricing from Haynes for ¾” to 1+” stone at \$20.30 per ton with a flat delivery fee of \$65.00 for deliveries under 5 tons. M Reeves had suggested that a bottom layer of stone dust overlaid with processed stone would serve to tamp down the weeds. Members agreed to table the topic to the November 14, 2019 meeting.
- K Tucker stated that the bog bridges at Viney Hill Brook Preserve look good and J Lovelace suggested installation of two additional bog bridges at the intersection. The bog bridges will be installed in the area around the intersection and will be constructed on site.
- K Tucker reported that members dug up the pond leveler and cleared the sticks and mud which had accumulated around it.
- K Tucker reported that members did more spraying at the entrance of Viney Hill Brook Preserve and that phragmite eradication, to be professionally managed by All Habitat, Inc., will be added to upcoming projects.
- K Tucker reported that the Viney Hill Brook sign installation will be accomplished at no cost to the ECC.
- K Tucker commented on the potential purchase of seeds for the wildflower meadow at a cost of \$150.

Trail Reports:

1. Bushy Hill Preserve

K Tucker reported that she, R. Field, M. Reeves, R. Helmecki, A. Forrest, J. O'Brien and J. Wlochowski, met at Bushy Hill Preserve on Sunday, September 22, 2019, 8:30 AM. Members walked down to the Falls River and deconstructed the Eagle Scout Bridge which had been thrown into the Falls River. Some boards from the deconstructed bridge were used to shore up the remaining Eagle Scout Bridge. Other boards were stored for future bridge repair. The work party then went up the other trail and treated some Japanese Knotweed at the entrance with Round-Up, snipped some Barberry overgrowth, encroaching on the trails, and assessed the two Wolf trees. Members also looked at the Oak Ledge access trail from the interior of Bushy Hill Preserve.

2. Canfield Meadow Woods

R Field reported that he, Wilk Miller and George Wendell hiked the southern orange trail and cleared a fallen limb. R Field noted that the rest of the trail system looked fine. R Field stated that he received a phone call reporting on an incident with unleashed dogs on the trail.

3. Viney Hill Brook Preserve

K Tucker reported that she, Roger Field, M. Reeves, A. Forrest, Jacob Wlochowski, and J. O'Brien assessed the Japanese Knotweed. Mark Reeves sprayed some Knotweed growing near the Cedar Meadow. K Tucker noted that the work-party walked over the bog bridges. The area from the intersection to the Eagle Scout Bridge was dry.

J Lovelace was at Viney Hill Brook Preserve today and walked the Quarry Pond, Upland and Forest Glade trails. The cedar meadow will be cut in the spring. The Essex town crew foreman will rent a brush hog and do the same cutting of the Cedar Meadow as the crew did last year. Members agreed to have the wildflower meadow mowed after the ground freezes. Then hand cast wildflower seed after it snows.

6. New Business

J Lovelace reported that he reviewed the Essex Conservation Commission's entry on the Town's website and made the necessary changes and updates, including the new maps.

K. Tucker reported that Frank Hall's term on the Conservation Commission will expire in December and F. Hall would like to be reappointed. J. Lovelace's term on the Conservation Commission will also expire and he stated that he would like to be reappointed.

7. Financial Report

J O'Brien set up the ECC budget on a spread sheet, an easier and more understandable format for the financial reports. J Lovelace reviewed the July, August, and September 2019 Invoices from Clark's Custom Services.

MOTION made by J Lovelace to approve Clark's Custom Services invoices #3228 and #3330 for work done in July, August and September 2019; **SECONDED** by R Field; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, R Field, J Wlochowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

8. Other

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

MOTION made by J Lovelace to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. until the November 14, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30 p.m., Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by R Field; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, R Field, J Wlochowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella Caione
Recording Secretary