



TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

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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

Essex Conservation Commission
Minutes
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 8, 2021

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 8, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Conservation Commission members in attendance are:

Attending Members

K Tucker
J Lovelace
F Hall
A Forrest
J O'Brien
M Reeves
R Helmecki
R Field (Alternate)

Absent Members

Audience

No public in attendance

Seated for the meeting were K Tucker, J Lovelace, F Hall, A Forrest, J O'Brien, R Helmecki and M Reeves.

Special Meeting Minutes

There was a correction to the Special Meeting minutes of June 15, 2021. The day was Tuesday, not the usual day of Thursday. **Motion** was made by M Reeves to approve the minutes with the correction, it was **seconded** by F Hall. **Voting in favor:** K Tucker, A Forrest, F Hall, J O'Brien, M Reeves, R Helmecki. **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** J Lovelace; **Approved:** 6/1/0. No further discussion.

The ECC Stenographer resigned from her position and was thanked for her many years of service. A notice of the job opportunity has been posted.

The Commission received a response from Robert Nussbaum of the Essex Land Trust. The ELT reiterated how the new trail under consideration at Bushy Hill would enhance the property and expressed their support of going forward. The ECC commissioners feel we don't have the financial resources to jointly maintain the proposed new trail and how would it be delineated as to what is maintained by the ELT and the ECC. Also, the ECC feels the primary issue is the additional parking that would be needed. This will be discussed in more depth at future meetings.

R Field asked if the ECC would consider a roadbed that leads from the parking area on Bushy Hill to the meadow which could be used for additional parking. Due to needing to abbreviate the meeting due to the tropical storm looming, it was decided the topic would be discussed better at another meeting.

Bushy Hill Trail Report

Clark's Custom Services cleaned out the berm and did an excellent job. R Helmecki reported he also did some additional cleaning up and noticed a mound of dirt left behind that he will distribute around in other visits to the park. Clark's also mowed a circular path around the meadow for walking. It's fine but will require constant maintenance. K Tucker suggested we not continue mowing the extra path but wait until after the first frost and then dormant mow the whole meadow per usual.

There was some discussion about whether the culvert under the berm was operational. M Reeves said the culvert pipe has shifted and is no longer in alignment. Nothing needs to be done with that right now. Pond water is flowing well through a chasm opening.

J Lovelace was pleased with the work Clark's Custom Services did. They did the work that was requested except for the entrance at Oak Ledge Dr. They didn't have the proper equipment to do that final bit of work so will go back with what they need to finish the job. J Lovelace said Clark's was already paid for that portion of the work so no more payment will be necessary.

Canfield Meadow Woods Trail Report

R Field reported the kiosk at the Dennison Road entrance was repaired and reinstalled. The Dennison Rd. entrance needs some additional maintenance. Roger did report that usage of the preserve has decreased. He noticed the regulars still tend to come in the mornings and evenings but aside from that it was not being used that much. Weekends are better but still not being heavily used. Nothing currently needs to be done until the hurricanes and tropical storms move through.

Viney Hill Brook Trail Report

K Tucker reported that plastic bags, brush and tree debris were dumped behind the boundary fence next to the kiosk. The dumping was then reported to the town crew and a request made to remove it. It has not been done as of last week. K Tucker also said All Habitat treated the phragmite and some of the Japanese Knotweed they saw. The Knotweed was not part of the work contracted this year but All Habitat will continue to treat reoccurring areas as they have done in the past.

Old Business

M Reeves said he spent the \$347 budget given to him by the commission to purchase whatever he needed to build bog bridges; due to increase in price of materials only 2 bridges, as opposed to 9 bridges in 2020, can be built for the same cost.

Financial Report

Money to be encumbered: \$210 for the boundary signs, \$500 to Doane Engineering to survey the Bushy Hill parking area and entrance, \$700 for Doane Engineering to mark the VHB boundary lines, \$300 for maps, \$900 June maintenance Clark's Custom Services, and \$347 Beard Lumber.

Motion to Adjourn was made by M Reeves at 8:15 PM until the next meeting on August 12, 2021. **Seconded** by F Hall. **Voting in favor:** K Tucker, F Hall, M Reeves, R Helmecki, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O'Brien. **Abstaining:** None. **Opposed:** None.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Forrest, Secretary