



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 Chair

Regular Members

Frank Hall
Richard Helmecki
Jim O'Brien
Mark Reeves
Vacancy

Alternate Member

Vacancy
Vacancy

Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting June 16, 2022, Room A, 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: K. Tucker called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
In attendance: R. Helmecki, J. O'Brien, M. Reeves, K. Tucker.
Absent: F. Hall, J. Lovelace
2. Public Comments: No public comments.
3. Review and Approve May 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes. With a motion by M. Reeves and a 2nd by J. O'Brien, the minutes were approved by all.
4. Old Business to include trail reports and management issues in town preserves:
 - A. Bushy Hill Preserve: R. Helmecki reported that on Tuesday, June 14, he walked most of the trail. Helmecki reported that Clarks Custom Services had mowed a circle in the overgrown field. K. Tucker asked for discussion on the field management issue. Should it be kept as a field? Keep the sides high? Mow the entire field or keep the sides overgrown? It may be cost prohibitive for ECC to fund twice a year mowing. R. Helmecki will work with CCS to figure out mowing schedule and costs.

R. Helmecki reported that a large tree had been professionally felled beside the Blue Trail. K. Tucker asked Maria Lucarelli; Augie Pampel, Essex Tree Warden, and Dale McLeod at Eversource, for information on the tree. Dale McLeod left a voice message after learning that the town of Essex had authorized the felling. Tree Warden Augie Pampel will be asked for specifics of the take down.

M. Reeves reported that the hemlock is still leaning. Essex Land Trust had suggested that the trail be enlarged around the leaner tree. ECC felt that the go around trail is adequate. R. Helmecki will continue to monitor dead, leaning hemlock.

J. O'Brien reported that on May 24 all commissioners inspected the survey markers and flags installed by Doane Engineering. O'Brien reviewed the flags and stakes with commissioners noting that further staking may be necessary so that boundary lines can be recognized by future commissioners.

K. Tucker and R. Helmecki pulled and weed whacked invasive garlic mustard and bittersweet around the pond in May.

B. Canfield Meadow Woods

On June 12, Leif Owens, ELT steward, reported that a tree was down across the Long Trail (green) near the intersection with Loop Trail (orange) on town property. Tom Soboleski has agreed to represent the Land Trust for any Canfield issues. Assisting Tom are George Wendell and Chuck Grausse, ELT stewards. Tom Soboleski reported that the 10-12" trunk had rotted. After making 5 cuts, he rolled the sections off the trail.

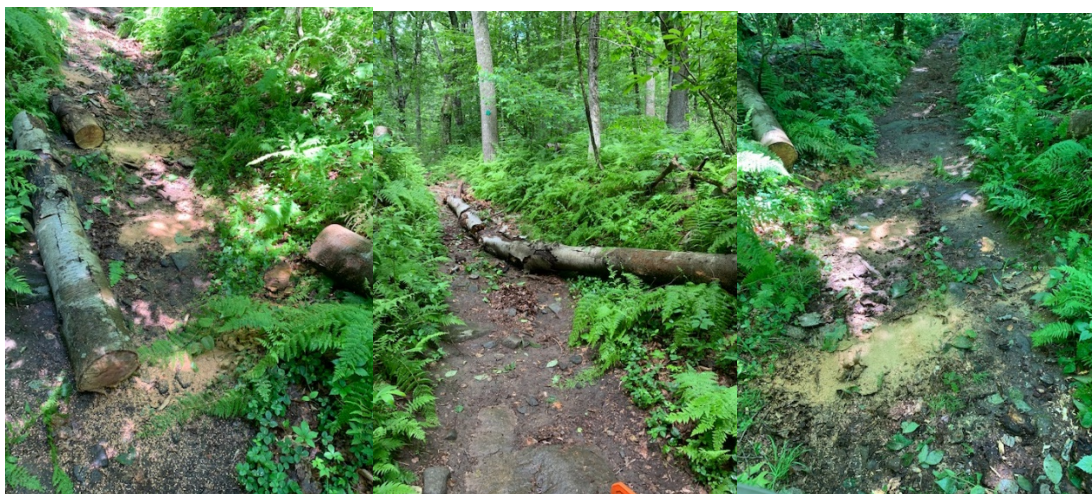


Photo credit of Canfield Meadow Woods Long Trail (green) near the intersection with Loop Trail (orange): Tom Soboleski.

J. O'Brien will walk Canfield Meadow Woods prior to ECC monthly meetings and will liaison with ELT on management issues, as needed.

C. Viney Hill Brook Preserve

F. Hall sent a report June 9th:

(Photos below.) I walked down Quarry Pond (Blue) Trail from passive parking around east side of the pond. This trail was mowed from parking area to large Beaver Lodge. Broadwalk (Orange) Trail from large Beaver lodge to Eagle Scout Bridge has standing water on it; section from Eagle Scout Bridge to Power Co. ROW has not been mowed. Trails from Turtle Crossing (Red) to Upland Woods (White) Trail thru Forest Glade (Purple) Trail to Wildflower Meadow were clear of debris; trail markers were in

place. Both Pond Levelers and Exclusion fences near Quarry Pond and Broadwalk were working. New boundary markers were in place. Hall replaced 15 trail maps at Kiosk.



Photo credit of Viney Hill Brook Preserve: F. Hall

M. Reeves discussed installation of boundary markers on town property. Commissioners met on May 24, reviewed Doane survey and placed 3 boundary markers behind the passive parking lot fence. Markers denote where town's property line is in relation to abutting neighbor's property line.

K. Tucker reported that All Habitat Services sent field technicians on June 10 for early season Phragmites treatment. All Habitat emailed a map of treatment area for ECC review.

D. Other to include:

1. Future Boy Scout projects and Response from Scout leader

J. O'Brien offered to hold a workshop for the Boy Scouts this fall to familiarize Scouts in what stakes and flags tell us about boundary lines. Scout Leader Greg Ruel has accepted O'Brien's offer saying that the troop has 3 Life Scouts and 1 new Star coming up prior to Eagle Scout status. This workshop will help meet their merit badge and community conservation requirements.

5. New Business: K. Tucker reported that R. Field has resigned from the ECC. She thanked him for his service. Other members said:

J. O'Brien: Roger has always presented "a calm, intelligent approach to everything he addressed. He straddled both the ELT and ECC with a reasonable approach."

M. Reeves: "Roger made very positive contributions on both the ELT and ECC, and is a friendly, smiling, hard worker, and knew what he was about."

R. Helmecki: Roger was "always willing to give a hand, such as moving rocks at Bushy Hill Preserve. He was always friendly and smiling."

6. Financial Report YTD 2021-22

A. Expenditures: Invoice from Clarks Custom Services for \$900 May mowing. CCS will submit an additional bill for June. Essex Hardware invoice for stakes and fasteners, \$44.

R. Helmecki would like to purchase battery-operated hedge clippers and will check on prices 2022-23 budget.

M. Reeves said that the ECC could borrow his gas-operated clippers until purchase is made.

B. Encumbrances:

Clarks Custom Services for Bushy Hill and Viney Hill Brook Preserves to be invoiced by the end of June, 2022 and encumbered.

7. Adjournment: With a motion by J. O'Brien, and a 2nd by R. Helmecki, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting July 14, 2022, Room A, 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Susan K. McCann
ECC Clerk