



TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

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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

Regular Meeting July 14, 2022, Room A, 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: K. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7pm.

In attendance: F. Hall, R. Helmecki, J. Lovelace, J. O'Brien, M. Reeves, K. Tucker.

2. Public Comments: There was one guest at the meeting representing the Valley Courier. There were no public comments.

3. Review and Approve June 16, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes:

Correction pg. 2 Chuck **Grusse** is the correct spelling of the Essex Land Trust Member's last name. With a motion by M. Reeves and a 2nd by J. O'Brien, the minutes were approved. Two members, absent for the June meeting, abstained. ECC members agreed to continue to attach photos taken during inspections or work outings in the 3 preserves as the pictures illustrate the conditions described at the meetings.

4. Old Business to include trail reports and management issues in town preserves:

A. Bushy Hill Preserve: Clarification of tree cutting in June next to the Blue Trail. Tree Warden, Augie Pampel, received a request from a Bushy Hill Road resident who felt the tree was endangering his property and asked that the tree be felled; A. Pampel concurred with the resident. K. Tucker said that this sets a precedent for cutting down trees which abut neighboring properties in the preserves and asked that the ECC be notified when other preserve trees are to be felled per order of the Tree Warden. J. Lovelace offered to call A. Pampel to discuss this.

R. Helmecki said there was a report of a bear by an ELT Steward in Bushy Hill Preserve. Helmecki noted the ECC had posted "Bear Beware signs" in 2021 after an early morning bear sighting was reported.

Clark's Custom Services mowed the field. R. Helmecki said it was mowed to "diversify" the property; J. Lovelace added "to reestablish the habitat." That area was once farm land.

B. Canfield Meadow Woods: J. O'Brien has read the Essex Land Trust reports; no problems mentioned at Canfield Meadow Woods.

C. Viney Hill Brook Preserve: F. Hall reported that he and Dana Hill walked along the Preserve on the East side of Quarry Pond then along Broadwalk and Turtle Nesting Trail to Upland Woods Trail. Hall

said the area was very dry due to the lack of rain. On Broadwalk, going south, a tree had fallen over in the beaver pond area and requires chain sawing in order to make the trail accessible. ECC work party agreed to meet Monday, July 18, passive parking area to clear the tree.

F. Hall reported that the exclusion fences are operational and that there is no water draining from Quarry Pond.

F. Hall expressed concern about the leaner tree along the right of way road off Cedar Grove Terrace. K. Tucker noted that the Tree Warden was notified of the potential hazard in November, 2021. F. Hall said the leaner tree is supported by the tree that it had fallen against.

D. Other: J. Lovelace wants to emphasize in the Minutes that the ECC has installed boundary signs attached to **metal** stakes, which should extend the life of the stakes and signs.

K. Tucker reported that All Habitat Services Inc. treated the phragmites in June per ECC contract. All Habitat provided a map of the treatment area which was reviewed by commissioners.

K. Tucker reported that the ECC Annual Town report is due in August. With J. Lovelace's assistance, the report will be ready for the August 11 scheduled meeting for the ECC to approve. K. Tucker asked for photos to be submitted for the Town Report. J. Lovelace will supply the photos.

5. New Business

6. Financial Report:

A. 2021-22 FYE ~~Encumbrances~~: K. Tucker asked that the word "encumbrances" be removed from the Agenda 2021-22 FYE. Only year-end residual funds can be "encumbered." With a motion by J. O'Brien and a 2nd by M. Reeves, the members agreed.

K. Tucker reviewed the financials, including:

627 Pat-time Payroll
340 Printing
1200 All Habitat phragmite treatments
2500 All Habitat mosquito inspections and treatments
648 Beaver Solutions, Inc. exclusion fence inspection/maintenance
6885 Clarks Custom Services (July-October/April-June) and dormant meadow mowings
1200 Doane Engineering Survey (Viney Brook and Bushy Hill Preserves)
210 Schaller Assoc. metal boundary signs
44 Essex Hardware stakes and screws
69 Beard Lumber Company bridge timbers

\$1,598 overbudget

B. 2022-23 FY Proposed Expenditures

Discussion took place about the cost of mowing the fields.

7. Other: Discussion regarding an e-mail from Eversource of their program, in 12 towns, to remove any tree if it is tall enough to fall on the backbone of the electric distribution wires; a cause of major electrical failings. Private property owners have the right to refuse. J. Lovelace suggested petitioning EverSource to place wires underground.

K. Tucker/ECC received certified mail from T-Mobile NE. J. O'Brien summarized that it was a notice that more telecommunications (6 new panels and 6 new antennas) will be placed at the water tank at 170 Main Street, Ivoryton.

With a motion by F. Hall, and a 2nd by M. Reeves, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

8. Adjournment

Next Scheduled Meeting August 11, 2022, Room A, 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Susan K. McCann, ECC Clerk