

Essex Conservation Commission
Town of Essex
29 West Avenue
Essex, CT 06426

MINUTES

Special Meeting – June 16, 2011

Call to Order:

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted a special meeting on June 16, 2011 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall. Members in attendance were Kay Tucker, Rich Helmecki, Doug Demarest, Jeff Lovelace and Pam Bernardini. Also in attendance, Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary. Excused Maryann Pleva and Goody LeLash

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Review and Approval of the May 10, 2011 Minutes:

Motion made by Doug Demarest to approve the May 10, 2011 Minutes.

Motion seconded by Jeff Lovelace and passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Viney Hill Brook Preserve

Forest Glen Barberry clean up

Mr. Lovelace, Mr. Helmecki and Ms. Tucker met and reviewed the clean up and it was agreed that Mud River Services did an adequate job at that site. A total of 1.5 acres was cleared with a minimal amount of damage to the area. The area will now grow-in with non-invasive plants.

Quarry Pond trail clean up

Mr. Lovelace reported that Mud River Services removed all of the beaver damage, all of the spikes and small stumps and Mr. MacWhinney took down all of the trees with the exception of one tree which the Essex ZEO, Joe Budrow asked to have remain in the pond. The beaver lodge also remains at the edge of the pond. That lodge will eventually wash away. The water is running nicely through the spill pipe. Some trimming is needed in the area for general clean up.

Broadwalk clean up

Mr. Lovelace stated that Mr. MacWhinney cleaned up the pipe and the drainage has been restored. There were some ruts that were left from the tractors. However in time, it is anticipated that those ruts will dissipate.

Kay Tucker suggested that additional woods chips be distributed in that area.

Japanese Knotweed clean up

Ms. Bernardini, Kay Tucker, Jeff Lovelace and Rich Helmecki did quite a bit of cleaning up in the area of the knotweed. The group took a walk on the new trail, went down Broadwalk and looked at the dam and at the clean up. Commissioners spent several hours at the site.

The meadow had been tarped a year or so ago and it had been promised that wood chips would be brought to cover the tarp. A pile of chips was spread and a second large mound of chips was recently delivered. Ms. Tucker suggested that Commissioners think about spreading the chips.

Mr. Dennis Robida took away the knotweed and brought it to the dump.

Other

Bushy Hill Preserve

Mr. Helmecki replaced some of the boards on the footbridge at Bushy Hill Preserve and he noted that there are more that need to be replaced. Mr. Helmecki indicated that he would continue working on this project. Mr. Helmecki also removed some of the invasive knotweed in that area.

Canfield Meadow Woods

Ms. Tucker indicated that the kiosk would soon be installed in Canfield Meadow Woods.

Eagle Scout project

Mr. Lovelace stated that the bridge is installed and it is 20 feet long and was constructed in Tom MacWhinney's backyard utilizing wood that Mr. MacWhinney donated. There were 15 or so Eagle Scout members who participated in the construction of the footbridge. Mr. Lovelace provided a slide show for members utilizing his computer which depicted the construction and installation of the bridge. Jason Wlochowski and Jake Wlochowski constructed the footbridge. Mr. Demarest contributed to the design of the footbridge.

Conservation Easements updates

Shirley Malcarne visits the town hall and reviews the deeds that have been registered for the year relating to conservation easements. This year, there were two easements designated within the Town of Essex.

Fiscal year end expenditures and encumbrances

- Don Carlson indicated that he has a few more hours of work left remaining. His current bill is \$787.50 and this money was encumbered from last year. Mr. Carlson will pin the mark at Oakledge drive with concrete.
- Shirley Malcarne \$60. for three hours of work.

- Maps for Viney Hill Brook Park \$200. to Old Saybrook printing.
- Pam Bernardini has a Staples bill for copying of the trail maps. Ms. Bernardini did not have the bill this evening however she thought the cost was around \$50.
- Ann Penniman will update the Bushy Hill Preserve maps to add the 30-acre Platt property parcel. Ms. Penniman will have the hard copies and a disc available by August 21, 2011. The cost for this project is \$750.

Mr. Demarest spoke with Joel Marzi and Mr. Marzi will frame the photos for the cost of the materials. Mr. Demarest will ask Mr. Marzi for the price to have this project completed.

Mr. Helmecki suggested that the Commission purchase a weed-wacker. Mr. Helmecki has been using his own device to clear the weeds Mr. Helmecki contacted Old Saybrook Lawn and Power and they offer two models; one is \$280 and there is a second model that is built to handle heavier jobs and that cost is \$310. There is an additional cost for the metal blade kit, the line and a 6-pack of oil. Mr. Helmecki suggested that the Commission purchase the larger model and the accessories. A total cost of \$400 is to be encumbered for this purchase. It was noted that Essex Park and Rec does have a kiosk by the active area and that kiosk is 33.5" wide by 30"high and 5.5" deep. The large sized vertical kiosk (Kirby Built) is 40" wide by 8" deep x 54" high. The medium kiosk is 31" wide x 8" deep x 39" high. The cost is \$640 each with the post.

Mr. Demarest suggested that the Boy Scouts become involved with the design and the construction of this kiosk project.

Ms. Tucker asked to table the discussion on the kiosk.

Ms. Tucker distributed a quote from All Habitat, Madison, CT for the Phragmites management project along the banks of Old Quarry pond and Broadwalk. This company will utilize an herbal herbicide which will translocate into the plants rhizome systems and disrupt the growth cycle. This project will occur in the fall. The cost is \$500 for chemical control for two acres. Beyond the two acres the cost is \$450 per acre. There is an additional \$150 preparation fee and a \$200 CT DEP filing fee.

It was determined that the cost will be \$950 to get equipment and to spray the herbicide, plus an additional \$800 to do the job.

Mr. Demarest suggested that All Habitat visit the site and prepare an estimate for the work. Mr. Demarest further suggested that the Commission encumber \$4,000 for this project.

Total encumbrances:

- All Habitat Services for Phragmite control to commence in the fall, but to be encumbered now \$4,350.
- Frames by Marzi for frames for the aerial maps, \$150.
- Shirley Malcarne \$60 for services rendered for inventory and the easements.
- Don Carlson \$788 for survey of Viney Hill Brook Park 2009 and 2010 encumbrance.
- Pam Bernardini for copying at Staples
- Saybrook Lawn and Power for the Echo weed wacker, \$508.
- Old Saybrook Printers \$200 for the printing of the new trail maps of Viney Hill Brook.

- \$750 for Ann Penniman's services.
- Mud River Services for wetland barberry and extraction \$500.00

For a total of \$7,246.

Motion made by Pam Bernardini to encumber \$7,246.

Motion seconded by Doug Demarest and passed unanimously.

The available budget as of June 6, 2011 is \$9,122.00

Other

Susan Malen was appointed as an alternate to the Conservation Commission. It is unclear as to whether Ms. Malen has been sworn in.

New Business:

Mr. Demarest was asked to look at another color for the trail markers. Mr. Demarest displayed a very dark brown color for the marker. Mr. Demarest stated that a color palette was not available to bring to the meeting.

IWWC Report Goody LeLash:

No report.

Correspondence

A DEP tentative determination to approve an application for a dock on behalf of Robert and Sandra Galiette, property located at Tiel Lane, Essex, CT for private recreational boating access.

Ms. Bernardini read into the record a letter to the Harbor Management Commission from the Essex Conservation Commission regarding the public access-ways within the Town of Essex. Ms. Tucker will send this letter to the Harbor Management Commission.

Motion made by Doug Demarest to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Pam Bernardini and passed unanimously.

The special meeting of the Essex Conservation Commission adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex Conservation Commission will be conducted on July 14, 2011.