

Unapproved

**Town of Essex
Conservation Commission
29 West Avenue, Essex, ct
essexct.gov**

**Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 1, 2012
7:30 p.m.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted a special meeting on November 1, 2012 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Present: Chair, Kay Tucker, Doug Demarest, Jeff Lovelace, MaryAnn Pleva, Richard Helmecki and Susan Malan.

Excused: Pam Bernardini.

Absent: Ron Skinner

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Correct and approve October 4, 2012 meeting Minutes

The following corrections are noted in italics:

Page 1, last sentence: "The Essex Land Trust *oversees* the easement at the Heron Pond subdivision..."

Page 2, first sentence: "...and the Planning Commission *oversees* the easements at Bushy Hill Preserve."

Page 2, first paragraph: "...*Maryann Pleva* noted that for those areas where public access is not allowed, there should be signage indicating the same."

Page 2, Canfield Meadow Woods report: "Ms. Tucker stated that the Dennison Road and Book Hill Woods Road *kiosk* has not been installed."

Motion made by Doug Demarest to approve the October 4, 2012 meeting Minutes as amended.

Motion seconded by MaryAnn Pleva and passed 5/0/1 with Susan Malan abstaining.

Discuss November 17 Tromp and Plunge Trail Walk

The Essex Land Trust and the Park and Recreation Department will sponsor the Tromp and Plunge event on November 17, 2012. MaryAnn Pleva and Goody LeLash will facilitate a 45-minute walking tour from 10-11:30 a.m. The walk will begin at the Viney Hill Brook Park Active Recreational parking area.

Discussion of Conservation Easement Inventory Project

In a letter dated October 14, 2012, Jenna Klinck stated that she has made significant progress on the Inventory Easement project. Ms. Klinck stated that she has taken pictures and is making detailed notes on the properties to confirm that there are no encroachments on the Conservation easements. Ms. Klinck stated in her letter that she anticipates that all of inventories will be completed by in the next few weeks.

Ms. Tucker stated that she would like to install conservation easement signs on the conservation easement properties. Ms. Tucker contacted Joe Budrow, Essex ZEO to discuss signage that was to have been distributed to those subdivisions which have received approval over the past several years, delineating the conservation easements with a notation of "no public access." The Conservation Commission will review with Mr. Budrow those areas that require these postings and look to retroactively install signage.

Ms. Tucker stated that with regard to conservation easements, the Commission will in the future forward a recommendation to the Essex Boards and Commissions stating that "the Conservation Commission recommends that there is a requirement to install signs that state either no access or public access every 25-50 feet along the border of the subdivision."

Ms. Tucker suggested that the Commission table a discussion on those conservation easements which need to be delineated and to schedule a meeting with Joe Budrow sometime after January 2013 to discuss the same.

Mr. Lovelace suggested that Ms. Klinck meet with Mr. Budrow to pursue the conservation easement signage.

Discuss Trail Maintenance and projects

a) Viney Hill Brook Park

Mr. Lovelace walked the Blue trail around the pond, the White trail, the Purple and Yellow trail, and found no damage. The area was dry. Mr. Lovelace reported that there is a tree down in the area of the White trail.

Ms. Tucker stated that there was a tree down in the vicinity of Broadwalk which needs to be cleaned-up and another tree down in the area of the wildflower meadow.

Ms. Pleva and Ms. LeLash will cut back the pricker bushes in the area of the Wollack pond.

Mr. Helmecki stated that Mr. Budrow as agent for the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission has approved the installation of two bog bridges.

a) Canfield Meadow Woods

Ms. Malan reported that her husband walked Canfield Meadow Woods before the storm and after the storm. Ms. Malan reported no problems on the trails.

Mr. Demarest stated that the kiosks are completed and will be installed as soon as possible.

b) Bushy Hill Preserve

Ms. Tucker reported that she walked the trails at Bushy Hill Preserve and noted that there are large trees that are hung up by other trees. Tom MacWhinney has offered to remove those trees that are felled and hung up, presenting a hazard to hikers.

Mr. Lovelace stated that the Blue and the Red trails require some clean-up as well. Particularly, the area on the Red Trail in the vicinity of the large Hemlock trees. Mr. Helmecki and Mr. Malan will work on that clean-up effort utilizing chain saws.

Ms. Tucker reported that the Wolf tree is intact.

Ms. Tucker stated that she will clear the raspberry stalks along the Oakledge Trail.

The Commission discussed a felled tree at Oakledge Drive that was storm damaged. The adjoining property owner had the tree hauled away.

Mr. Lovelace stated that additional maps are needed for Viney Hill Brook Preserve.

Review 2013 Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve the 2013 meeting schedule as amended to include the cancellation of the July 2012 meeting and the change of the monthly meeting dates to reflect 2013.

Motion seconded by Jeff Lovelace and passed unanimously 6/0/0.

Inland Wetlands Liaison Report, Jeff Lovelace – No report.

Correspondence. No correspondence

Motion made by Susan Malan to adjourn the Special Meeting of November 1, 2012 at 8:52pm.

Motion seconded by Jeff Lovelace and passed unanimously 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary

The next special meeting of the Essex Conservation Commission will be conducted on Thursday, December 6, 2012.