



TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426
Telephone (860) 767-4340 • FAX (860) 767-8509

Executive Board

Kathleen Tucker, Chairman
Jim O'Brien, Vice Chair

Regular Members

Frank Hall
Richard Helmecki
Mark J. Reeves
Elizabeth Stulga
Vacancy

Alternate Member

Vacancy
Vacancy

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2023, Town Hall Kitchen, 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: K. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. In attendance: F. Hall, J. O'Brien, E. Stulga, K. Tucker.
Absent/Excused: R. Helmecki, M. Reeves
2. Public Comments: There were no public comments.
3. Review and Approve July 13, and July 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes: With a motion by J. O'Brien, and a 2nd by K. Tucker, the minutes of July 13, 2023 were approved. E. Stulga abstained as she was not present for the meeting. With a motion by J. O'Brien, and a 2nd by E. Stulga, the minutes of the special meeting held on July 25, 2023 were unanimously approved.
4. Old Business to include trail reports and management issues in town preserves:
 - A. Bushy Hill Preserve: Trails were walked on August 1. New bike sign was installed.
 - B. Canfield Meadow Woods: J. O'Brien reviewed ELT report that all trails were open.
 - C. Viney Hill Brook Preserve: E. Stulga walked clockwise partially around Wollock's Pond. She said that there are two leaner trees (see her photos on the next page) and that she could not walk fully around the pond since it is too overgrown. She said that the Cedar Grove Meadow is overgrown with mugwort.



Leaner tree at Viney Hill Brook Preserve: photo by E. Stulga



2nd leaner tree at Viney Hill Brook Preserve: photo by E. Stulga

D. Other: K. Tucker talked to Jim Howard of Howard's Tree Service. She will send him the signed agreement to take down the leaner tree. ECC should be present when the tree is taken down. Grant agreement states that photos before and after felling are a requirement and need to be included in the submitted report on the project. K. Tucker e-mailed thank you notes to the two other tree companies who gave quotes for this work as well.

5. New Business to include:

A. Town Report 2022-2023 Submission: K. Tucker had shared the 400-word draft submission prior to the meeting. E. Stulga suggested that we incorporate what the ECC gives back to the Town of Essex. J. O'Brien noted the educational walks given to community groups, such as the Boy Scouts; the Beaver walks, and the New Year's Day walks. E. Stulga also brought up the importance of a succession and growth plan. With a motion by J. O'Brien, and a 2nd by E. Stulga, the 2022-23 Town Report was approved to be submitted.

6. Financial Report Expenditures: ECC begins July with a budget of \$12,125. We need the invoice from CCS for their July mowing work. We also need to reimburse ELT for the newly printed Canfield Meadow Woods maps.

7. Other: We need to set up a fall work party to address M. Reeves' suggestions for upgrading Viney Hill Brook Preserve.

9. Adjournment: With a motion by J. O'Brien, and a 2nd by E. Stulga, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting September 14, 2023, 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susan K. McCann, Clerk