

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 Chairman  
Frank Hall, Secretary*

**Regular Members**

*Richard Helmecki  
Adrienne Forrest  
Robert Ward  
Mark J. Reeves*

**Alternate Member**

*Jerri MacMillian*

**Unapproved**

**Minutes Regular Meeting  
Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.  
Town Hall, 29 West Avenue - Room B**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on June 2, 2016 in Room A of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Kay Tucker  
Frank Hall  
Richard Helmecki  
Mark Reeves  
Jerri MacMillian seated for J. Lovelace

**Absent Members**

Jeffrey Lovelace  
Robert Ward  
Adrienne Forrest

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

Audience: There were no audience members present.

**1. Call to Order**

K. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Seated for the meeting were K. Tucker, R. Helmecki, M. Reeves, F. Hall, J. MacMillian.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Old Business**

**a. Trail Reports and Maintenance Projects**

**• Viney Hill Brook Park**

F. Hall reported that the main drain at Viney Hill Brook Park is flowing nicely and the beavers have not done any additional work to the area that was previously cleared by M. Callahan, Beaver Solutions, LLC. F. Hall indicated that the beavers block the outflow and the inflow, and they have successfully reduced the flow from Cedar Terrace Extension culvert.

F. Hall indicated that the Boardwalk was dry in most areas and the section under the Scout bridge is dry.  
K. Tucker distributed photos of Viney Hill Brook Park which were taken on May 20, 2016 by J. Lovelace.

M. Reeves stated that over time, it is remarkable how much debris the beavers have brought into the area of the main drain.

M. Reeves will assess the site and cut the fallen trees on the trail.

- **Canfield Meadow Woods**

No report.

- **Bushy Hill Preserve – Wolf Tree Clean-up**

R. Helmecki reported that he, A. Forrest and K. Tucker met at Bushy Hill Preserve on May 14, 2016 to clear the area around the Wolf Tree and opened up the area making the Wolf Tree more visible from the trails.

**b. Dogs in Town-Owned Preserves**

K. Tucker referenced the letter which refers to the informational guidelines for leashing of dogs, received from Tri-town Animal Control Officer, Jae Wolf. K. Tucker reported that at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Conservation Commission meeting the First Selectman stated that he would approve, edit and distribute the letter from the animal control officer to the Essex Events and place it on the website.

M. Reeves suggested that this letter be published a few times a year in Essex Events.

K. Tucker distributed a NY Times August 9, 1999 article related to leashing laws within the State of CT.

**c. Other**

There was no other business.

**4. New Business**

R. Helmecki commented on the impressive, small trail constructed by the Essex Land Trust in the Pond Meadow Park off of Comstock Avenue, on which a series of bog bridges and benches have been erected.  
R. Helmecki suggested that members visit the trail.

**5. Financial Report and FYE Encumbrances**

K. Tucker reported that there is a balance of \$2,886 left remaining in the budget through the end of this fiscal year. The projected expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year are as follows: \$1650 to All Habitat for Japanese Knotweed and phragmite control; \$40 to Shirley Malcarne for the preparation of the inventory. \$100 to Wilcox Tree Services for work on the Wolf Tree; One mowing expenditure at Viney Hill Brook Preserve and one mowing expenditure at Bushy Hill Preserve; and the payroll costs incurred for the month of June by the Commission's Recording Clerk.

K. Tucker suggested that Clark Custom Services be contacted with the request that they mow as soon as possible and that they cut the grass as low as possible, and further request that they monitor the area to determine if another mowing is necessary before the end of the month. If it is determined that the grass is too high, and in the interest of tick control, Clark's Custom Services will do a second mowing in the month of June.

K. Tucker commented on the importance of grass control at Viney Hill Brook Park and Bushy Hill Preserve as a measure to detour ticks.

#### **6. Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Report**

There was no report.

#### **7. Review and Approve May 5, 2016 Minutes**

**MOTION** made by M. Reeves to approve the May 5, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented;

**SECONDED:** F. Hall **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, R. Helmecki, M. Reeves, F. Hall, J. MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

#### **8. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

#### **9. Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by M. Reeves to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:30 to the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on July 7, 2016 at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by F. Hall **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, R. Helmecki, M. Reeves, F. Hall, J. MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin  
Recording Secretary