

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, November 3, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 29 West Avenue - Room B**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on November 3, 2016 in Room A of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Jeffrey Lovelace
Rich Helmecki
Robert Ward
Adrienne Forrest
Jerri MacMillian arrived at 7:45pm

Absent Members

Frank Hall
Mark Reeves

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, J. Lovelace, R. Helmecki, , R. Ward, A. Forrest, J. MacMillian

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Old Business to include:

1. Report on clean-up and maintenance Quarry Pond Trail

J. Lovelace stated that M. Reeves has cut up the fallen tree in the southeast corner of Quarry Pond and opened up the area, cutting up a chunk of the tree, creating safe passage. M. Reeves also pushed the tree back up so it is erect again.

2. Viney Hill Brook Park

A Forrest read a report on Viney Hill Brook Park which was provided by F. Hall via email. The pond leveler pipe is working well and the intake culvert on south side is dry. The beavers have been busy cutting down trees and there are a significant number of trees that have been cut since September. The beavers continue to work on the tall tree on southeast shore near the residential homes. All the trails within Quarry Pond are clear.

J. Lovelace reported that the beavers are working upstream creating dams, and they have also been working in the area of the Red Trail where they have created a dam and averted the water.

J. Lovelace reported that one of the planks is broken on the second bog bridge, coming from the Blue Trail on the north. K. Tucker suggested a work party to repair the bridge.

J. Lovelace reported that in a discussion with Dennis Robida related to Viney Hill Brook park, D. Robida observed that the Preserve is well used and that there are many birders in the area. J. Lovelace stated that the beavers are damming up the outlet pipes at Wollock's Pond and J. Lovelace suggested the installation of a water leveler.

K. Tucker stated that she will contact Robert Russo, Director of the Park and Rec Commission and she will ask him to accompany Conservation Commissioners to Wollock's Pond to view the beaver damage.

K. Tucker suggested that the Commission organize the workshop to "Celebrate the Beavers", at some time in April 2017.

3. Other

b. Bushy Hill Preserve

R Helmecki stated that he has not visited the Preserve recently.

K. Tucker asked A. Forrest to provide maps at the December Conservation Commission meeting for distribution to the members who may replenish supplies as needed.

1. Schedule dismantling of decayed pedestrian bridge

R Helmecki stated that the dismantling of the two decayed pedestrian bridges is a big job and the use of sledge hammers and crow bars will be needed to take the bridges apart. Members will meet on-site, on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 1:00pm.

2. Schedule repair of pedestrian bridges

R. Helmecki stated that the pedestrian bridges are in good shape.

A Forrest reported that the entrance at Oak Ledge is in a state of disarray and requires clean up. Members will meet on-site on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 1:00pm.

R Helmecki suggested that after members clean up the site, the Commission should consider retaining Clark's Custom Services to maintain the entrance to Oak Ledge.

3. Other

c. Canfield Meadow Woods

R Ward stated that he took down a tree that was blocking one of the trails within Canfield, and he noted that there is a tree up the hill of the Silver Trail that needs to be cut down.

R. Ward stated that he has not had an opportunity to check on the progress of the washed-out gravel stairs which are situated on a path at Book Hill Road, moving south toward the trail head. The Essex Land Trust previously stated that they would handle the replacement of those stairs, however the repair has not yet been completed.

R. Ward stated that there is heavy use of the Canfield Meadow Trails and there is a group of folks who participate in cross-training, and run the trails daily.

d. Continue discussion of alternative dates for Conservation Commission meetings

K. Tucker stated that she would like the start time of the meeting time to remain at 7:30pm.

J. Lovelace stated that several years ago, the Conservation Commission changed their meeting from the second Thursday to the first Thursday of the month. The meeting was changed to the first Thursday so as not to conflict with the Planning Commission. J. Lovelace noted that the first Thursday meeting date frequently presents a conflict related to holiday schedules and he indicated that the current meeting schedule presents a conflict for himself.

There was a discussion on alternative days for the Conservation Commission meeting. K. Tucker will check with Town officials to determine if there is a process or a protocol to be followed when changing a commission's meeting schedule.

e. Other

Review and Approve the October 6, 2016

MOTION made by R. Ward to approve the September 1, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes with the following amendment: J. Lovelace did not abstain from the vote on a change in the meeting time; **SECONDED:** R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, R. Helmecki, R Ward, A. Forrest, J. MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

4. New Business

Members agreed to conduct the Conservation Commission's 11th annual New Year's day hike at Viney Hill Brook Preserve which will begin at 10:00am.

Clark's Custom Services provided an invoice in the amount of \$250 to cut the meadow at Viney Hill Brook Park and to remove the existing brush at the entrance. They provided a second estimate in the amount of \$125 to clear the meadow abutting the passive parking lot is situated.

MOTION made by J. Lovelace to accept Clark's Custom Services quote in the amount of \$375 for mowing both the meadows in Viney Hill Brook Park; **SECONDED** by J. MacMillian; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, R. Helmecki, A. Forrest, R Ward, J. MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

5. Financial Report

K. Tucker stated that the encumbrance was released and to date, \$2,119 has been expended and there is close to \$10,000 left remaining in the Commission's budget for this fiscal year.

6. Inland/Wetlands report

J. Lovelace reported that at the IWWC October 11, 2016 meeting there were six Permit extensions granted. In accordance with the IWWC regulations, the activity pursuant to said permit shall be initiated within five years of the date of publication and shall be completed within one year of the date of initiation, and will occur between

March 15th and October 15th of the year of initiation. Should the applicant determine that the permitted activity will not be completed between March 14th and October 15th of the year of initiation, the applicant agrees to appear before the Commission and present a plan for the stabilization of the site during the non-permitted months.

The following IWWC Permit extensions were granted:

Extension granted on behalf of Permit 15-10 Ivory Street Bridge to December 15, 2016.

Extension granted on behalf of Permit 07-01 Essex Glenn Road Construction to January 15, 2017.

Extension granted on behalf of Permit 16-1 Charles Doan property, 100 Plains Rd. to November 30, 2016.

Extension granted on behalf of Permit 16-05 Paige Lescure, 36 Mack Lane granted to March 15, 2017.

Extension granted on behalf of Permit 16-9 Jerry Gualizzi, 102 Mares Hill Road granted to March 15, 2017.

Extension granted on behalf of Permit 16-6 Bokum One LLC, Bokum Road, granted to March 15, 2017.

7. Correspondence

K. Tucker distributed several brochures to members.

8. Adjournment

MOTION made by J. MacMillian to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:50pm to the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on December 1, 2016 at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by A. Forrest; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, R. Helmecki, A. Forrest, R Ward, J. MacMillian; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary