



TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426
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Executive Board

*Kathleen Tucker, Chairman
Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chairman
Frank Hall, Secretary*

Regular Members

*Richard Helmecki
Adrienne Forrest
Mark J. Reeves
Jim O'Brien*

Alternate Member

*Roger Field
Vacancy*

Unapproved

Minutes Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 13, 2018 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Frank Hall
Richard Helmecki
Jim O'Brien
Mark Reeves
Roger Field seated for J Lovelace

Absent Members

Jeffrey Lovelace
Adrienne Forrest

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Clerk

Audience: There were no audience members

1. Call to Order

K Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Seated for the meeting were K Tucker, F Hall, R Helmecki, M Reeves, J O'Brien and R Field.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment

3. Review and Approve August 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by J O'Brien to approve the Minutes of the August 9, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented:
SECONDED by F Hall **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J O'Brien, R Field, R Helmecki, F Hall; **Opposed:** None;
Abstaining: None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

4. Old Business to Include:

A. Discuss Viney Hill Brook Preserve September 11, 2018 Site Walk

Conservation Commission members met on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Passive Parking area of Viney Hill Brook Preserve at the end of Cedar Grove Terrace for the purpose of reviewing the trails. Those present were K Tucker, F Hall, O'Brien, R Field, R Helmecki, A Forrest.

F Hall read into the record the September 11th site inspection report. A brief discussion ensued. F Hall will re-write the site inspection report to include the comments and amendments noted at this evening's meeting and resubmit to members for discussion at the October 11, 2018 meeting.

Members will meet on September 25, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of cutting from Observation Rock trail to Broadwalk.

B. Trail Reports

1. Viney Hill Brook Preserve

Previously discussed in conjunction with the September 11, 2018 Site Walk inspection conversation.

2. Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve

R Field reported that at the Book Hill Woods trail head entrance there is a large, dead Oak tree which he reported to Augie Pampel, tree warden on 5/29 /2018 and again on 6/5/2018 and again on 7/20/2018. R Field stated that he has not received a response from A Pampel. K Tucker suggested that R Field email A Pampel and copy Norman Needleman, First Selectman and Maria Lucarelli, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen.

R Field reported he and Essex Land Trust member George Wendell did a good deal of weed whacking along the Orange, Green and Silver trails. R Field reported that at a previous meeting he was asked to research the Poplar tree which is the 9th largest tree.

3. Bushy Hill Preserve

R Helmecki reported that there is a dead Apple tree in the parking lot at Bushy Hill Preserve.

K Tucker had the Town crew come out and they trimmed back the branches.

C. Other

F Hall stated that he will resign as the Conservation Commission secretary.

5 New Business to Include:

K Tucker reported on a newspaper article in which the CT River Area Health District advised that people use caution during mosquito season. CRAHD reported that infected mosquitos are rising at levels higher than normal for this time of the year creating a rapid build up of West Nile Virus in the State.

K Tucker reported on an article in the August 2, 2018 Valley Courier related to the grey Birch trees noting that the Birch tree's life span is 20 years. However the Birch tree may be rejuvenated by cutting the Birch tree trunk/stems to the ground. New stems will emerge from the stumps in the spring to form a new multi-stem tree. The best time to do this is April-June.

K Tucker reported that in an August 18, 2018 letter, the Essex Land Trust (ELT) has indicated that they are seeking accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance and the ELT submitted a letter to the Conservation Commission explaining the process. The ELT is seeking a statement of endorsement from the Conservation Commission with a deadline of October 26, 2018

7. Financial Report

K Tucker reviewed the expenditures made to date from the 2018/19 Fiscal Year budget. A brief discussion ensued on future encumbrances and expenditures.

M Reeves suggested that the Commission invite the Essex Public Works Director to a Conservation Commission meeting to discuss how the Pubic Works Department may be of assistance to the Commission.

8. Inland Wetlands Report

Jeff Lovelace was absent.

9. Adjournment

MOTION made by M Reeves to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm until the October 11, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT;

SECONDED by F Hall; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, F Hall, R Helmecki, J O'Brien, M Reeves, R Field **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin, Recording Clerk