



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, November 8, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2018 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Jeffrey Lovelace
Jim O'Brien
Adrienne Forrest
Mark Reeves
Roger Field seated for R Helmecki

Absent Members

Frank Hall
Richard Helmecki

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Clerk

Audience: Ken Peterson, Boy Scout Troup 13
Rebecca Peterson

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, J O'Brien, M Reeves, A Forrest and R Field seated for R Helmecki.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment

3. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

A. October 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by A Forrest to approve the Minutes of the October 11, 2018 Minutes as presented:
SECONDED by R Field; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, R Field, J O'Brien A Forrest, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None;
Abstaining: J Lovelace; **Approved:** 5/0/1.

4. Old Business to include:

A. Report of GPS Mapping for Viney Hill Brook Park

J Lovelace reported that he and K Tucker, met with Myron Stacks, Essex Land Trust, on October 24th and walked the trails around the newly created beaver pond at Viney Hill Brook, traversing to Observation Rock and on to the two new trails that were opened to gain access to the Broadwalk trail. M. Stacks, using his GPS system, recorded the trails for the purpose of mapping.

B. Trails and Projects:

1. Viney Hill Brook Preserve

A Forrest reported that the detour trail from Broadwalk was saturated with pond and rain water. She and K Tucker went around Quarry Trail and walked to the new pond area on the Orange Trail.

K Tucker stated that while on the GPS mapping walk in October she had used the detour Trail and walked across a small stream, due to beaver activity, today that stream is huge. A Forrest stated that it will continue to expand and the installation of a bog bridge would be ineffective at this time.

J Lovelace commented on the area situated behind the Eagle Scout Bridge noting that during a big rain event the existing water pipe could jam and may not handle the drainage will not occur. It was suggested that M Callahan, Beaver Solutions, install another water leveler under the scout bridge so as to handle potential overflow.

M Reeves said that the bog bridges from the intersection of Broadwalk and the Blue Trail are underwater.

K Tucker suggested blocking off and closing that trail going down to Broadwalk. M Reeves suggested that rather than closing the trail, to install descriptive signage.

Commissions discussed how best to advise the public as to trail conditions and to whether the areas should be cordoned off to discourage usage.

R. Field said that simple "Flooded" signs be placed at the appropriate areas. All agreed.

A Forrest will look into the signage.

2. Bushy Hill Preserve

No report.

3. Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve

R Field reported that he cleared a large birch on the Orange Trail and that there were three large limbs that came down over various trails which has since been cleaned up. R Field commented on the issue related to the White Oak trees dying off in the state and he stated that the State of Connecticut has indicated that the White Oak are vulnerable due to weather conditions and gypsy moth infiltration.

4. Other

There was no other business.

5. New Business to Include:

A. 2019 Meeting Calendar

K Tucker suggested cancelling the February 14, 2019 meeting as several members will be out of town.

MOTION made by J Lovelace to approve the 2019 meeting calendar with the February 14, 2019 cancellation; **SECONDED** by J O'Brien; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, R Field, J O'Brien A Forrest, M Reeves, J Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

B. Other

There was no other business.

6. Financial Report

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

K Tucker asked members to consider if they would wish to forgo treatment of the Japanese Knotweed and the Phragmite. Members were in favor of continued Larvicide treatment by All Habitat in Bushy Hill Preserve.

7. Inland Wetlands Report – J Lovelace reported on the following related to the IWWC October 9, 2018 meeting:

- The State of Connecticut's purview over the tidal wetlands area was discussed.
- The IWWC approved an extension of time of the permitted activity period during the non-permitted months for Application 18-4, Park Enterprises, LLC, 21 Grove Street, Essex. An IWWC permit was previously issued to install sedimentation and erosion control, clear the trees and demolish the three existing structures to include the house, the barn and the shed. Attorney John Senning presented a Memorandum in Opposition to Request for Extension of Permitted Activity Period dated October 9, 2018 on behalf of Susan Malan, Grove Street.

8. Adjournment

MOTION made by M Reeves to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM until the December 13, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT;

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Clerk