



TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

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Executive Board

Kathleen Tucker, Chairman
Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chairman
Adrienne Forrest, Secretary

Regular Members

Frank Hall
Richard Helmecki
Mark J. Reeves
Jim O'Brien

Alternate Member

Roger Field
Vacancy

Minutes Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 7:30pm

1. Call to Order

The Essex Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Kay Tucker, Chairman.

Attending Members

K Tucker
F Hall
R Helmecki
J O'Brien
J Lovelace
M Reeves
A Forrest

Absent Members

R Field

Audience: No public in attendance

All attending members were seated for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Review and Approve July 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by F Hall to approve the Minutes. J Lovelace seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Voting in Favor: K Tucker, F Hall, R Helmecki, M Reeves, J O'Brien, J Lovelace, A Forrest. **Opposed:** None.

Abstaining: None. **Approved:** 7/0/0. No further discussion.

4. Trail Reports

Bushy Hill

R Helmecki and K Tucker cleared a downed tree from a trail and trimmed briars along the blue trail. After a substantial rainfall, it was noted that the Falls River was raging. It was noted that Clark's mowed in the preserve. All Habitat did a mosquito treatment on July 19th and will do another treatment in 30 days unless they are

notified they need to come earlier. They're having difficulty staffing their crews so will do their best to keep up their obligation.

Canfield Meadow Woods

J Lovelace noticed a fair number of cars were parked at the Dennison parking area. No further report was made.

Viney Hill Brook

The Quarry Pond Trail from the Parking Area at the end of Cedar Grove Terr to the beginning of Broadwalk and the area on the other side of the bog bridges to Eversource ROW is well mowed. However, the East Side of Quarry Pond Trail is overgrown (note attached pics). There are a number of branches down on the lower Red Trail, Wollock Pond Loop and Forest Glade Trail that obstruct the trails. The Pond Leveler devices are working at Robida Pond, Quarry Pond and Wollock Pond. F Hall noted he saw 4 people with 4 dogs enjoying the area. He also felt we will probably need a work party to clear trails of fallen branches.

Clark's is scheduled for 10 hours of work at VHB so they will be reminded to clear the overgrown trail around Quarry Pond. Due to the height of the weeds it was determined the Commission request Clark's go out more frequently to clear trails.

After the report last month of dumping being done at VHB, none was noted this month except for some tree limbs. One commissioner conjectured the unusual dumping of garbage might have been due to the closing of access to the Essex Town Transfer Station while their roadway was being chip sealed. The scheduled work was off by a day due to the wrong size of stone that was ordered so the closure ended up being about a week. The Commissioners surmised some residents didn't want to hold onto their garbage for that long so found alternate places to leave it.

5. Other Business

A search for a new clerk is ongoing.

There was a black bear sighting on River Road near Pettipaug Yacht Club's entrance. Commissioners were also reminded to take down bird feeders and birdbaths due to the unknown disease that has been infecting and killing so many songbirds. Removing the feeders and baths will help mitigate the spread.

6. Old Business

K Tucker reported we're still waiting for a template for the 30 "No Access" signs we have ordered. She is also waiting for an estimated time Bob Doane, PE, will be able to stake a parking area at Bushy Hill Preserve and remark boundary lines at VHB. These professional agents appear to still be backed up.

J O'Brien said he will talk with a former Board of Education member to see if the high school might have any students who would be interested in clerking for the ECC.

7. Essex Annual Report

A draft for the ECC's submission to the town's Annual Report was worked on by K Tucker, J Lovelace and A Forrest. A couple minor adjustments were made to the wording and it was also suggested a photo of M Reeves and K Tucker standing on a newly constructed bog bridge be included with the report.

8. Financial

Ely Clark submitted Clark's Custom Services's July invoice. Commissioners asked J Lovelace to ask CCS future invoices starting August 2021 include dates of when the work was actually performed. It helps Commissioners determine how things grow between mowings which makes scheduling better. It was noted there are still 10 hours of work at VHB and 8 hours of work at Bushy Hill scheduled to be completed this month. J Lovelace also reported we are on budget for July. J Lovelace also said he would check with Clark's to see if they have completed the work that was requested to be done at the Oak Ledge Dr. entrance has been completed.

Money that has been encumbered for work by Bob Doane is for \$700 and \$500 for two projects. We are waiting to see when he might be able to give us a response. We also have \$210 encumbered for Digital Signs and continue to wait for the template so we can go forward. A Forrest reported she ordered maps for VHB and Bushy Hill and is waiting for an estimate before giving the go-ahead.

9. Adjournment

MOTION made by F Hall at 8:26 pm to adjourn until the September 9, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting.

SECONDED by M Reeves. **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, F Hall, R Helmecki, M Reeves, J O'Brien, J Lovelace and A Forrest. **Opposed:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Approved:** 7//0/0. No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Adrienne Forrest
Secretary