

TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426
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Executive Board
Kathleen Tucker, Chairman
Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chairman

Regular Members
Douglas Demarest, Member
Richard Helmecki, Member
Pam Bernardini, Member
Adrienne Forrest, Member

Unapproved

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 7:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 29 West Avenue
Second Floor Conference Room B

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regular meeting on June 6, 2013, Room B, Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker, Chair
Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chair
Richard Helmecki, Regular Member
Pam Bernardini, Regular Member
Doug Demarest, Regular Member

Absent Members

Adrienne Forrest, Regular Member

Attending Staff:

Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

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

1. Review and Approve the May 2, 2013 Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by J. Lovelace to approve the May 2, 2013 Minutes as presented: **SECONDED** by D. Demarest; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini and R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

2. Old Business

A. Fiscal Year-end Expenditures and Encumbrances

Ms. Tucker received a contract from All Habitat Services for tick treatment of the Old Quarry pond and the Broadwalk area at \$350 for an application now and \$350 for the next treatment.

All Habitat Services presented a quote of \$1500 for a treatment which would be applied now, and an additional \$1500 for a second treatment which would include Old Quarry, Broadwalk, the Meadow, the White Upland trail, the Forest Glen trail and the area from the passive parking to Mr. Clark's fence.

Members agreed to contract for tick treatment of Old Quarry pond and the Broadwalk area at a total cost of \$700.00. Ms. Tucker will inquire as to the cost to treat the areas of Forest Glen and the entrance to the upland trails.

MOTION made by D. Demarest to contract with All Habitat for tick management of Old Quarry and Broadwalk trail the areas of Forest Glen and the entrance to the upland trails for a total of \$800; **SECONDED** by P. Bernardini **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini and R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

MOTION made by P. Bernardini to pay Shirley Malcarne a total of \$60.00 for the updated conservation easement inventory; **SECONDED** by D. Demarest; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini and R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Ms. Tucker stated that at the May 2013 meeting, members agreed and voted on the disbursement of \$875 and \$700 for summer phragmite treatment.

Ms. Bernardini stated that Essex Printing produced 300 maps for Viney Hill Brook Park at a cost of \$127.98. Ms. Bernardini expended \$69.51 at Staples for the inventory assessment books and pictures.

MOTION made by J. Lovelace to pay Essex Printing \$127.98 for 300 maps; **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini and R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

MOTION made by D. Demarest to reimburse Pam Bernardini \$69.51 for expenditures on scrap booking the conservation inventory; **SECONDED** by J. Lovelace; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace and R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** P. Bernardini; **Approved:** 3/0/1.

Mr. Lovelace stated that the Public Works Department has not yet mowed the trails at Viney Hill Brook and Mr. Lovelace noted that the trees are overhanging onto the trails and require pruning. Mr. Lovelace will contact Dave Caroline, Director of Public Works and he will also contact Tom MacWhinney, Mudd River Services to inquire about having this work done.

MOTION made by R. Helmecki to encumber an additional \$2500 for maintenance of Viney Hill Brook Park to include the mowing of the trails and the pruning of the overhanging trees; **SECONDED** by D. Demarest; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini and R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

B. Trail Reports

1. Viney Hill Brook Park

Mr. Lovelace stated that he walked the Purple trail and he did some pruning and cutting back. The Yellow trail needs to be mowed. Broadwalk needs to be mowed and trees pruned, however the Broadwalk trail is dry.

Mr. Lovelace stated that in the vicinity where the dam is located he cleared the pipe so that water could drain through. Mr. Lovelace will speak with Joe Budrow, Essex ZEO regarding maintenance of the pipe which needs to be reconfigured and sunk.

Mr. Lovelace stated that the wildflower meadow has produced 7 different types of flower species. There was no evidence of any beaver activity. Mr. Lovelace stated that the maps need to be replenished and the parking lot and fence looked good.

2. Bushy Hill

Mr. Helmecki visited the foot passage bridge and he replaced three slats. The main beam is split and it appears that someone has been jumping on the bridge. Mr. Helmecki stated that the repair of this foot bridge would be a good Boy Scout project. Mr. Helmecki suggested that if the Boy Scouts were not able to do so, he and a friend might be able to do the work. Mr. Helmecki stated that the cost for the materials would be under \$300.00. Mr. Helmecki will contact Baird Lumber and arrange for a delivery.

MOTION made by P. Bernardini to encumber a \$300 for lumber to repair the foot passage bridge at Bushy Hill; **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini and R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Ms. Tucker left a voice mail message for Karl Kaufmann, Jr. to mow the meadow in the area of the picnic tables.

Mr. Helmecki stated that the trails all look good.

3. Canfield Meadow Woods

Mr. Lovelace stated that there are always a few cars in the parking lot and it appears that the trails are utilized.

a. Projects

- Rick Audet, Director Essex Park and Recreation emailed Ms. Tucker to say a teacher from Valley Regional High School is organizing a community service project involving VRHS social studies students. The VRHS students will volunteer for a time period of 2 hours, utilizing basic hand tools to work on the trails.

Mr. Lovelace met with Rick Audet and they walked the various trails to discuss the type of work that needed to be done which included hand removal of the Japanese Knotwood and the clean-up of sticks and debris on the trails. The Commission is also looking to have stepping stones placed at the Forest Glen trail.

Mr. Audet has indicated that the work that the Conservation Commission has proposed is not appropriate for the group of students.

- Ms. Tucker commented on the joint environmental venture with the Essex Conservation Commission, the Essex Land Trust and the Deep River Conservation Commission utilizing the services of the Environmental Review Team (ERT). Ms. Tucker has signed off on the application which will authorize a multi-disciplinary environmental study team to assist in the review and management of Canfield Meadow Woods. Ms. Tucker stated Mr. Stevens has not heard from ERT and has indicated that he will contact Ms. Tucker when he has further information.
- Ms. Bernardini completed the scrap booking project of the Essex Easement and Restriction Inventory.

b. Other

C. New Business

There was no New Business.

D. Inland Wetland Report

There was no IWWC Report.

E. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

F. Adjournment

MOTION made by P. Bernardini to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:45 pm. to the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, August 8, 2013 at the Essex Town Hall, Room B – second floor, 29 West Avenue, 7:30 p.m.: **SECONDED** by R. Helmecki; **Voting In Favor:** K. Tucker, J. Lovelace, P. Bernardini and R. Helmecki; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary