

Unapproved

**Town of Essex
Conservation Commission
29 West Avenue, Essex, ct
essexct.gov**

**Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 6, 2012
7:30 p.m.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted a special meeting on September 6, 2012 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall. Present: Chair, Kay Tucker, Jeff Lovelace, MaryAnn Pleva, Richard Helmecki and Susan Malan.

Attending Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

Guest: Jenna Klinck

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

Correct and approve July 2012 and August 2012 meeting Minutes

Approval and Corrections July 2012 Minutes

Page 3 under Trail Reports: "Ms. Tucker has the conservation easements on paper and MaryAnn Pleva and Pam Bernardini will research at the Town Hall.." (delete Pam Bernardini).

Motion made by Pam Bernardini to approve the July, 2012 meeting Minutes as amended.

Motion seconded by MaryAnn Pleva and passed unanimously.

Approval and Corrections August 2012 Minutes

Page 1, bottom of the page, "The Commission endorses the REMA conclusions and based on observations made during three site walks."; strike "three" and put in "two sidewalks."

Page 2 under Other: "Doug Demarest *and Richard Helmecki* will attend a luncheon at the Essex Town Hall in September 2012."

Motion made by Jeff Lovelace to approve the August, 2012 meeting Minutes as amended.

Motion seconded by Pam Bernardini and passed unanimously.

Report on and Discussion of Conservation Easement Inventory Project

Ms. Tucker introduced Jenna Klinck. Ms. Klinck graduated in the spring of 2012 from the University of Connecticut with an undergraduate degree in natural resources with a concentration in forestry. Ms. Klinck is currently matriculating toward a Master's Degree, studying tree biomechanics and she is researching the mechanical stability of trees during windstorms. Over the summer Ms. Klinck set-up a research site at UConn for the purpose of

collecting data. Ms. Klinck stated that she is taking only one course this semester and she will have the time to work on the inventory project.

Ms. Klinck and Ms. Tucker drafted a letter alerting residents that Ms. Klinck will be conducting research on their property and Ms. Klinck created a photo ID badge that says "Essex Conservation Commission" which she will wear along with an Essex Conservation Commission cap.

Ms. Klinck will look at the maps and determine the boundaries. She will create an observation sheet that will note wetlands and forested areas and Ms. Klinck stated that she will take pictures that can be tied to each site. Ms. Klinck will start this project within the next two weeks. She will begin with the residents who responded to the introduction letter. The time frame for completion is prior to the end of December 2012.

Ms. Tucker was advised that in order to place "Public Access" signs on the trees, the property deeds must be researched to be sure that the signage does not infringe on the resident's property.

Ms. Malan will contact Attorney David Royston to determine if it is allowable to tag certain trees with "Public Access" signs.

The Conservation Commission will place a blurb in the Valley Courier which will introduce Ms. Klinck and will elaborate on Ms. Klinck's work to evaluate and photograph the conservation easements that encompass 34 properties within the Town of Essex. This information will also be placed on the valleynewsnow.com website along with the Town's website.

Report on and Discussion of Status of Ingham Hill and Foxboro Point Subdivision Applications

Ms. Pleva stated that she has spent a good deal of time researching the Commission Minutes related to these two proposed subdivisions. The Foxboro Point subdivision was approved with stipulations by the Essex Planning Commission. The Ingham Hill Subdivision was approved by the Essex Inland Wetlands Commission with the condition to eliminate Lot #2.

The Conservation Commission submitted a letter on August 22, 2012 with additional recommendations to the Planning Commission, for the record, regarding the River Sound, LLC Conservation Subdivision Ingham Hill Road Planning Application.

Report on and Discussion of Town of Essex Adoption of Gateway Commission Regulations

Claire Matthews has been appointed the Town of Essex representative to the Gateway Commission.

Schedule Date to Clear and Expose Boulders Near Turtle Nesting area VHBP

Mr. Helmecki suggested to delay the work day until the leaves are off of the trees. A date will be scheduled at the October 4, 2012 Conservation Commission Special meeting.

Trail reports VHBP, Canfield Meadow-Woods, Bushy Hill Preserve

Viney Hill Brook Park – no report.

Canfield Meadow Woods – no report.

Bushy Hill Preserve: Mr. Lovelace stated that he received an email from the Essex Land Trust noting that there are Yellow Jacket bees on the Green Trail, nesting underground.

Ms. Tucker noted that a large teepee has been erected in the area of the entrance of Bushy Hill Park.

Review Correspondence

Ms. Tucker thanked Ms. Bernardini and Mr. Lovelace for the submittal on behalf of the Essex Conservation Commission for the town report.

Mr. Helmecki indicated that when he meets with Selectman Needleman he will inquire if the town can cut the grass in the field at the Viney Hill Brook Preserve.

Adjournment

Motion made by Jeff Lovelace to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Motion seconded by Rich Helmecki and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary

The next special meeting of the Essex Conservation Commission will be conducted on Thursday
October 4, 2012.