



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, August 9, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 9, 2018 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Kay Tucker  
Jeffrey Lovelace  
Adrienne Forrest  
Jim O'Brien  
Mark Reeves  
Roger Field seated for F Hall  
Richard Helmecki joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

**Absent Members**

Frank Hall

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, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves, R Field and R Helmecki who arrived at 7:35 pm.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**3. Review and Approve July 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** made by J O'Brien to approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented: **SECONDED** by J Lovelace; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O'Brien, R Field, M Reeves; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

**MOTION** made by J Lovelace to review “B Trail Reports” under Old Business before the “Report and Discussion of Flooding; **SECONDED** by A Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O’Brien, M Reeves, R Field; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

**4. Old Business to Include:**

**A. Report and Discussion of Flooding**

**Viney Hill Brook Preserve “Intersection” and Proposed Remediation**

M Reeves reported that he and Joe Budrow, Town of Essex Wetland Enforcement Officer, met at the passive parking lot, Viney Hill Brook Preserve and walked down to the intersection of Broadwalk and Quarry Pond. Mark Reeves noted that J Budrow understood the situation related to the flooding of the trails and the Commission’s proposal for remediation; however J Budrow indicated that he was not willing to issue an administrative permit for the proposed work. J Budrow suggested that the Conservation Commission obtain a signed document from Robert Doane, Town Engineer, approving the proposal and submit an application to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission seeking a permit for the proposed work.

K Tucker commended M Reeves for the considerable amount of time and effort that he has put into this project.

K Tucker asked that members make a decision on whether or not to retain the services of the Town Engineer.

M Reeves suggested that the Commission consider asking the Board of Selectmen for assistance with the payment of the engineering fees, noting that this is a one-time special project to keep these flooded trails open as was originally intended for this Preserve.

R Helmecki suggested as an alternative, the construction of bog bridges in the area.

M Reeves stated that the least expensive way to remediate the area is to drain it through stone drainage channels.

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to engage R Doane, P.E., to review the Intersection at Viney Hill Brook Preserve and to put forward suggestions on how to remediate the drainage issue, and what the associated costs for R Doane’s services to draw up a plan and present to IWWC on behalf of the Conservation Commission; **SECONDED: No Second; MOTION FAILED.**

**MOTION** made by R Helmecki to spend \$500 on pressure treated lumber and construct bog bridges through the Intersection at Viney Hill Brook Park; **SECONDED: No Second; MOTION FAILED.**

J O’Brien suggested that the Commission schedule a work day to go out into the field and investigate where trails would need to be moved in order to circumvent the beavers and the beaver activity.

K Tucker suggested that the Commission maneuver from the passive parking area around Quarry Pond, across Eagle Scout Bridge to see where a new or supplemental trail can be cut, around observation rock down to the detour trail. A solution might be to stop mowing from where the Quarry Pond trail is accessed to where the second beaver lodge is situated.

A brief conversation ensued.

Members will meet Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Passive Parking area of Viney Hill Brook Preserve for the purpose of reviewing the trails.

**A. Trail Reports**

**1. Viney Hill Brook Preserve**

R Field reported that he did some trimming of overhanging vines on trails at Viney Hill Brook Preserve.

J Lovelace reported that Ely Clark, Clark's Custom Services, has done extensive work in the Forest Glen area of the purple trail. Previously that trail was impassible.

**2. Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve**

R Field reported that an 8-foot Oak limb was felled near the Deep River Town line and clean up has been taken care of by members of the Essex Land Trust.

R Field reported that an 8-foot Locust came down at the trail head of the Orange trail which he cleaned up.

R Field reported that there is poison ivy at the convergence of the Orange trail with the Green trail. R Field stated that he would remediate the poison ivy.

J O'Brien stated that he and R Field walked the trails that are demarcated on the guide maps and everything is in order.

**3. Bushy Hill Preserve**

R Helmecki reported that he replaced two slats on the Eagle Scout Bridge and he cleared a large tree from one of the trails. R Helmecki stated that four to six additional boards need to be replaced on that bridge and R Helmecki noted that he has two boards and he will purchase four additional with intent of installation when the weather cools. R Helmecki stated that the trails look good and he noted that there were 20 or so hikers from the Bushy Hill Nature Center enjoying the stream.

K Tucker stated that she would like Commissioners to re-stake the wire fence that demarcates Bushy Hill and the abutting neighbors.

**A. Schedule Beaver Celebration**

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to table the scheduling of the Beaver Celebration until further information is available; **SECONDED** by A Forrest; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O'Brien, M Reeves, R Helmecki, R Field; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0.

**B. Other**

There was no other old business.

## 5 New Business to Include:

### A. Discuss CT River Gateway Commission proposed “Adoption of Gateway Standards”

K Tucker suggested to table the discussion of the Gateway Commission’s proposed “Adoption of Gateway Standards”, until such time that members have had ample opportunity to review the proposal.

### B. 2017/18 Town Report

K Tucker distributed the Conservation Commission’s draft proposal for the Town Report. There were a few minor amendments made by members.

**MOTION** made by A Forrest to submit the Conservation Commission’s piece for the Town Report once the amendments, as discussed this evening, have been incorporated; **SECONDED** by R Field; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O’Brien, M Reeves, R Helmecki, R Field; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0.

### C. Other

J Budrow will renew the Conservation Commission’s subscription for the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Watercourse Commissions (CACIWC).

## 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.

## 8. Inland Wetlands Report

Jeff Lovelace, IWWC Liaison, reported that at their July 2018 meeting, the IWWC approved **Application #18-5 – Dennis Pough, 31 Grove Street** to add a small addition to his home which is 30 feet from a watercourse.

K Tucker commended J Lovelace for his service as Conservation Commission liaison to the IWWC.

## 9. Adjournment

**MOTION** made by M Reeves to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm until the September 13, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30pm, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by J Lovelace; **Voting in Favor:** K Tucker, J Lovelace, A Forrest, J O’Brien, M Reeves, R Helmecki, R Field **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 7/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin, Recording Clerk