



TOWN OF ESSEX  
**Conservation Commission**

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426  
Telephone (860) 767-4340 • FAX (860) 767-8509

**Executive Board**

*Kathleen Tucker, Chairman*  
*Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chair*

**Regular Members**

Frank Hall  
Richard Helmecki  
Jim O'Brien  
Mark Reeves  
Vacancy

**Alternate Member**

Roger Field  
Vacancy

Meeting of the Essex Conservation Commission  
May 12, 2022, Room A, 7:00 pm

1. The meeting was called to order by K. Tucker at 7:00pm. Roll call:

Attendance: R. Helmecki, J. Lovelace, J. O'Brien, M. Reeves, K. Tucker

Absent/Excused: R. Field, F. Hall

2. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

3. Review and Approve April 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes: (Correction in bold below)  
Page 2. Canfield Meadow Woods: 2. Unleashed dog complaints: There have been multiple complaints about a person who walks **unleashed dogs, with one being known to show signs of aggression.** With a motion by J. O'Brien and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Reeves, the minutes were approved with the above correction in bold. (J. Lovelace abstained as he had not attended the April 13 meeting.)

4. Old Business to include trail reports and management issues in town preserves:
  - A. Bushy Hill Preserve: R. Helmecki purchased the boards and the 4" screws to replace the boards on the Eagle Scout bridge. On May 3, he replaced a sign that was missing from the Blue Trail. M. Reeves placed two signs on the kiosk regarding alternate parking at Oakledge Drive. K. Tucker noted that the mustard garlic should be extracted.
  - B. Canfield Meadow Woods: Prior to the meeting, R. Field reported that Canfield Meadow Woods is in good repair.
  - C. Viney Hill Brook Preserve: J. Lovelace walked the VHBP today. He walked around Quarry Pond and the Blue Trail. Along the Yellow trail, he saw evidence of beavers having built up their dams. He said that the pond leveler is working fine at Quarry Pond. When he walked across the Eagle Scout Bridge, he saw another beaver damn to the right of the bridge. The pond seems to be higher than in the past. While some of the phragmite remains, most of the phragmite patch had been cut flush to the ground. At the Right of Way Road pond, the water leveler was working fine. Where the passive parking lot is, there is a tree that is stuck across some other trees. J. Lovelace will notify Tree Warden Augie Pampel.

D. Other to include:

1. Review survey sketches Bushy Hill and Viney Hill Brook Preserves: J. O'Brien presented two survey sketches from Doane Engineering. **Please see separate attachments.**

#### **Viney Hill Brook Preserve Sketch by Doane Engineering**

J. O'Brien said he could not find marker points #2 and #3. Point #4 is 30 ft from the edge of the pond. Point #1 is 60 ft from the pond. He asked how we should memorialize the markers for future commission members. M. Reeves recommended using steel rebar with an orange cap driven close to the ground or green poles and spikes. K. Tucker and J. O'Brien suggested placing boundary signs. M. Reeves suggested setting up a work day to accomplish this.

**Action Item: Tuesday, May 24 at 9:30am, ECC members meet at Viney Hill Brook to set down stakes and signs. M. Reeves has a stake driver. R. Helmecki will drop off 7 signs and stakes, bolts, and screws.**

#### **Bushy Hill Preserve Sketch by Doane Engineering**

J. O'Brien said that he could not find a property marker. On the right-hand side on the first stone wall, he found 2 drill holes 26ft to the right off the property line.

Discussion took place to take a group walk with the survey sheet, find the markers, and put boundary stakes down. M. Reeves said that he'd like to know where the parking lot boundaries are. K. Tucker noted the metal fence is falling down.

J. O'Brien and M. Reeves discussed ways to delineate the parking area.

J. Lovelace discussed if it's possible to acquire land through donations for a parking lot.

**Action Item: Tuesday, May 24: After the group works at Viney Hill Brook, then proceed to Bushy Hill Preserve with a copy of the map, tape, line paint, and clippers.**

2. Discuss Eagle Scout projects with candidate and scout leaders: K. Tucker reported that the Scout referenced at the last meeting chose a different project with the Essex Library.

5. New Business: None

6. Financial Report YTD 2021-22

A. Expenditures: K. Tucker reported that there is \$3,331 at the end of April. About \$70 has been spent on boards and screws to fix the Eagle Scout Bridge; \$1200 for Doane Engineering in May, and \$1430 for Clark's Custom Services contracted mowing in June. K. Tucker asked if Town Crew Supervisor Ryan Walsh could order gravel for the entrance trail and parking lot. ECC to reimburse town for materials. No response to date.

B. Other:

7. Other: K. Tucker has notified Norm Needleman about the unleashed dogs in Canfield Meadow Woods and about thanking the ELT for their offer, although not accepted, to fell the leaning hemlock.

8. Adjournment: With a motion by M. Reeves and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Lovelace, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

**Scheduled Meeting June 9, 2022 meeting CANCELED; Special meeting June 16, 5:30 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by,**

**Susan K. McCann  
ECC Clerk**