

TOWN OF ESSEX
Conservation Commission

Executive Board
Kathleen Tucker, Chairman
Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chairman

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

Regular Members
Richard Helmecki, Member
Pam Bernardini, Member
Adrienne Forrest, Member
Vacancy

Unapproved

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 29 West Avenue
Second Floor Conference Room B

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regular meeting on February 6, 2014 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Kay Tucker
Adrienne Forrest, Regular Member

Absent Members

Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice Chair
Pam Bernardini
Richard Helmecki

Attending Staff:

Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

Kay Tucker, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Election of Officers

Tabled to the March 13, 2014 special meeting.

New Business

a. Discuss & Approve 2014-2015 Budget Request

Ms. Tucker indicated that there will be a special Town meeting to approve the 2014/2015 fiscal year budget on March 10, 2014 at the Essex Town Hall. Ms. Tucker suggested that she and Ms. Forrest review the Conservation Commission Budget Proposal and Ms. Tucker will then and submit to Kelly Sterner, Essex Deputy Treasurer, pending a vote from an upcoming Commission meeting.

Ms. Tucker reviewed the lined items to include Part Time Payroll; Office Supplies; Printing Supplies; Grounds Maintenance and Other Consultants:

Part time payroll: Reduced by \$100.

Office Supplies: Stamps, Folders, etc. remains the same.

Other Consultants: The Easement Inventory compiled by Mrs. Malcarne; Funding to retain a consultant to update GIS on the Town website; Funding for a forest management consultant.

Grounds Maintenance:

Tick maintenance within Viney Hill Brook Park along Broadwalk, Old Quarry Pond, right-of-way chain gate to Clark's gate;
Phragmite and mowing;
Knotweed treatment;
Lumber bog bridges & foot bridges repair;
Professional trail widening & cut back
Barberry removal;
Equipment Repair/ purchase.

Ms. Forrest suggested that additional funding be earmarked for treatment of the water at Bushy Hill Nature Preserve to curtail the mosquito larvae. Ms. Tucker will contact All Habitat and inquire about their services in relation to the mosquito treatment. Ms. Tucker commented on the possibility of the cost related to this service being drawn from the 2013/2014 budget.

A vote on the approval of the budget was tabled to the March 13, 2014 special meeting. Ms. Tucker will submit the budget proposal and inform Ms. Sterner that the budget has not been approved or reviewed by the Commission.

b. Other

Ms. Tucker stated that Pam Bernardini will not be available for the March 6, 2014 regular meeting and Ms. Bernardini asked the Commission to consider conducting a Special Meeting on March 13, 2014.

Old Business

c. Trail Reports

Viney Hill Brook Park – No report.

Bushy Hill Preserve– No report.

Canfield Meadow Woods – No report.

d. Review Clark's Pond Wetlands Meadow Analysis

Ms. Tucker commented on the Conditions at Clark's Pond in relation to the planting of several new trees. In a June 2002 letter from Richard Snarski, wetlands soil scientist, Mr. Snarski provides a detailed report of the vegetation growing in the wetland meadows at Clarks Pond.

Along with Mr. Snarski's letter, Ms. Tucker submitted for the record a February 6, 2014 memorandum from Joseph Budrow, Essex Wetlands Enforcement Agent, in which he responds to Mr. Snarski's 2002 letter. Mr. Budrow states that in July 1998 the Essex IWWC approved a recreational area for the Parks and Recreation Department to include the filling of wetlands. Some modifications were later approved that included the relocation of a basketball court. To this day it appears as if the park was never constructed. The file for this application is not on file at the Land Use Office. In 2002 Richard Snarski, soil scientist identified the vegetation that exists on the property and identified two wet meadows. In 2002 the IWWC approved the installation of a dry hydrant for the local Fire Department. This approval was partly based on a Planning Commission condition for a nearby subdivision approval. In October 2013 the IWWC approved a plan that would allow for the access road to be elevated by one foot along the replacement of an existing culvert pipe that was under the same access road. Part of the plan was the planting of 10 trees. Eight of the trees lined the access road and two other were west of the road. The applicant was the Essex Community Fund. Had the Snarski report been known then the ECF would have been sent to the Conservation Commission prior to the IWWC. In the future any proposals will come before the Conservation Commission.

e. Other

Ms. Forrest stated that the 2014 New Year's Day annual walk was a success and that there were ten people participating in the walk.

Review and Approve the December, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Minutes was tabled to the March 13, 2014 special meeting.

Inland Wetlands Report - Jeffrey Lovelace – No report.

Correspondence – No correspondence.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
02/07 2014 at 3:45 p.m.
Christine M. Coyne
CLERK ESSEX, CT TOWN CLERK