

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission

Meeting minutes, April 1, 2013

(No fooling!)

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.
2. Organizational Issues:
 - The minutes of the March 4 meeting and March 18 work session were approved.
 - No financial report was presented
 - No communications or interactions with other town boards were reported.
 - Al Levesque announced he plans to devote more time to ECC matters. ECC welcomes him back with thanks.
3. Water Issues:
 - Alternate member Al Levesque reported on his initial investigation with DES regarding permits or other procedures that might be required to allow work parties to remove downed trees from the channel of Pine River to facilitate passage by small boats. Nothing has been done to the channel in years. Many trees have fallen across the river in that time. Al told the commission that he has made preliminary contact with Nina Berkman at DES. Initially it appears no permits are needed for work that does not involve direct activity on shorelines and wetlands, such as felling trees, bank alteration or dredging and filling. He will follow up to determine whether any other complications could arise. He will also lead a reconnaissance trip for ECC members and other interested parties once the river has gone down from spring flood levels. ECC will look into other groups and individuals who might want to help with river clearances on the Pine, South and other streams of interest if state regulations really do permit it.
 - PLA Watershed study: Emelyn brought the commission up to date on communications with Carl Davis and ECC participation in the steering committee for the study. Virginia Wrabel may be unable to take part as she originally offered, but Al has indicated he could join Emelyn at the first meeting on Friday, April 12 at Province Lake Golf Course at 10 a.m. Al mentioned that he has some information that may be of use from his time as head of ECC's Watershed Review Committee.
4. Open Space Issues:
 - LLP: Jack has begun building the ADA-compliant picnic table he designed. ECC will schedule a cleanup at the preserve, probably in May, to tidy up winter debris.
 - Intents to cut: None of note.
 - Green Mountain Picnic Table: Emelyn requested that Jack get a couple of price quotes on cedar tables like the one initially selected from R&R Woodworking of Jackson, to make sure the town gets the best price.
 - Watts Preserve Puncheon Walkway: Al was briefed on the need to replace the existing walkway in the Watts Preserve, and some of the design discussion relating to this long-term project.
5. Education and Outreach:

- Earth Day poster contest: Emelyn is still waiting to hear from the Effingham School principal that the posters are ready to be picked up. They will then be judged by ECC members to select the winner in each grade.
 - Roadside cleanup: The annual spring roadside cleanup will be held Saturday, April 27. Full logistical details will be settled at the April 15 work session.
 - ECC website: Emelyn is working with Barbara Thompson on material to be added to the ECC section of the town website.
6. Other Business and Special Reports:
 - Mark Hensel presentation on March 22: Members who attended said it was very informative and Sig, the trained Labrador retriever, was most impressive. Emelyn had prepared a letter of thanks to C.O. Hensel which was signed by the members present.
 - Kamal Nath has announced preliminary plans for a presentation on “Bats in Our Town,” to be held either Tuesday, June 11 or Wednesday, June 12. He had offered starting times of 3:30 or 6:30 p.m. on either day. The consensus in ECC was that the evening time on either day would be better.
 - Master Plan: Still waiting for response from the Planning Board. Oh. Really?
 - No mail or workshops of interest.
 7. The next work session will be held on Monday, April 15 at the Municipal Offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, May 6 at the Municipal Offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.
 8. Members present: Emelyn Albert (*Chair*); Al Levesque (*alt.*); Tim White (*Recording Secretary*); Jack Williams (*Vice Chair*); Absent: Dave Goulet (*Secretary*); Harry Libby; Virginia Wrabel; Steph Barnes (*alt.*); Steve Zalewski (*alt.*)
 9. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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