

These minutes are draft until approved

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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, August 5, 2013

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.
2. Organizational Issues:
 - The minutes of the July 1 meeting were approved.
 - No financial report was presented.
3. Water Issues:
 - River inspection of deadfall in Pine River still on hold until autumn.
 - No activity on any other issues.
4. Open Space Issues:
 - LLP update – Jack dug 60 holes, put in 60 trail markers. Em and Jack removed a couple of blowdowns. Jack and Harry report seeing vehicles indicating visitors to LLP. Jack reports that the major work seems complete. Only maintenance will need to be scheduled as necessary for seasonal cleanup and removal of specific debris.
 - Intents to cut – no action required
 - Watts Preserve walkway – Jack reported he has sent plans to Stephanie Barnes and that Steph had relayed them to Audubon. Jack will coordinate with Steph on acquisition of materials and construction of walkway. Steph said she would pay for materials.
 - Green Mountain picnic table – Rangers picked up the table from Jack in late July. Bob Boyd and Ed Mayhew told Jack they had all the approvals necessary to place it on the summit. They also said the table would be stored in a shed for winter to protect from unnecessary weathering.
5. Education and Outreach:
 - ECC Brochure 2013 – Members are asked to think about what ECC is and what it does, and to come up with ideas to express these concepts in an informative brochure to encourage conservation and participation.
 - ECC website – Emelyn requested that Jack and Al get together with Theresa Swanick regarding editing and posting capability. Theresa had already said she would correct the meeting time shown on the website, which is incorrectly listed as 6 p.m.
6. Other Business and Special Reports:
 - Jack will take over as ECC Treasurer following Dave Goulet's resignation.
 - Anabat – Emelyn and Jack went on acoustical surveys listening for bat sounds on July 21 and 31. They recorded more than 50 individuals on the first trip and more than 70 on the second.
 - Bill Wrabel attended Hazardous Waste Collection Day as Effingham's representative. He reports there will be a wrap-up meeting and he expects to be able to convey the results to ECC in September.
 - Map 201 Lot 12 – Lot is listed at 5.8 acres with 950 feet of frontage on Route 25. Emelyn and Jack walked the lot on August 4. They report a high proportion of wetland and changes in contour that would make building difficult if not impossible. This appears to make the land well suited to add to conservation if it can be arranged.

- Milfoil reconnaissance – Tim still needs to schedule a trip on Ossipee River from the Route 153 boat launch to survey the extent of milfoil growth along that section of river. Emelyn will contact Lyle Thurston about making a ladder-based inspection from his river frontage. She will also contact Jim McElroy for a boat trip to the known milfoil areas in Leavitt Bay and to look for new areas in the vicinity.
- 7. Workshops – Emelyn, Jack, and Kamal Nath attended a workshop on climate change on July 23 in Greenland. Topics included the sharp decline in moose population from an estimated 7500 to 4500. Warming climate apparently increase the impact of ticks and brainworm. As many as 150,000 ticks can infest a single moose. The young are often made fatally anemic by the bloodsucking parasites.
- 8. Mail: SPNHF announced a controlled burn for the Harmon Preserve.

There will be no work session for August. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, September 9, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Emelyn Albert (*Chair*); Al Levesque; Harry Libby; Tim White (*Recording Secretary*); Jack Williams (*Vice Chair/Treasurer*); Virginia Wrabel; Steph Barnes (*alt.*); Steve Zalewski (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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