

These minutes are draft until approved

\_\_\_Approved

\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, May 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the April 7 meeting were approved.
- The meeting scheduled for May 5 could not be held due to lack of a quorum. The regular meeting was rescheduled to May 19.
- Financial Report – Members discussed whether Cliff Cabral (New England Milfoil) was paid with ECC funds, requiring reimbursement from the Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund, or whether he was paid directly from capital reserve. Jack or Emelyn was going to follow up with this.

### Water Issues:

- Members discussed issues related to removal of downed trees from Pine River to facilitate passage of appropriate boat traffic. In addition to state regulations regarding shorefront disturbance, landowner permission would be needed for any site along the whole project route.
- Al Levesque reported that he had been informed that a Pine River shorefront property owner was clearing vegetation right down to the water's edge. Members discussed whether DES would consider this any kind of violation. Past experience has shown that fewer things are illegal than you might think, and that enforcement of the infractions that do occur is less than energetic. The consensus was to grit teeth and ignore it.

### Open Space Issues:

- Kamal Nath's bird walk in LLP, scheduled for April 13, was canceled due to rain, but Jack and Emelyn tidied up the area anyway. They reported surprisingly little debris from the winter. They also reinstalled the bird plaque on the main LLP sign.
- Route 153 Boat Ramp – Jack presented further refinements to his plan for a roof over the picnic table. Actual construction and installation has not been firmly scheduled, but funds are available in the ECC budget. Virginia volunteered her husband Bill to help. Al said he would help, too.

### Education and Outreach:

- Earth Day Roadside Cleanup – The official bag count was 119, down from 138. Emelyn reported this was a good result, considering that a number of regular volunteers couldn't make it this year. The group attracted some new faces, including families with children. Newly-elected Selectman Lawrence Edwards participated, with his family. Approximate volunteer count was 21 adults and six children. Lunch came up a little short on hot dogs and hamburgers, but eventually everyone got enough to eat. ECC chair has already sent a letter of

thanks to Bill Wrabel for his services as grillmeister. Kamal sent a follow-up letter to KELF members.

- The litter grabbers were a popular tool. Emelyn proposed that ECC get more. Members discussed and approved the purchase of another half-dozen Orang-U-Tongs by Arc Mate, at \$18 apiece.
- Jack and Emelyn restocked ECC with blue litter bags when they made a recent trip to Concord.
- ECC Brochure – Members reviewed the final draft of the brochure. Emelyn reported she had found an inexpensive printing service. Members approved expenditure of \$60 for 300 copies.
- ECC Website – At the next meeting, members will discuss the information and links they want on the website.
- Earth Day Poster Contest – Members cold-heartedly trampled on the artistic dreams and ambitions of dozens of schoolchildren while selecting the winners for each grade in the Earth Day Poster Contest. Prizes have been ordered.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Claudia has arranged a meeting with Matt Serge, town attorney, to answer questions from all members of town boards and commissions. The meeting will be held Thursday, June 12, at the town offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m. Email any questions you might have to Emelyn or Claudia if you cannot attend.
- Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance is holding an Invasive Plant Workshop on Saturday, June 14 at their headquarters in Acton, Maine, from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 2, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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