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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, July 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- ECC welcomed the return of Dave Goulet.
- The minutes of the June 2 meeting were approved
- Jack presented the Financial Report. The 2014 budget shows a remaining balance of \$1,324.75
- Communications, interactions with other town boards – none.

Water Issues: Nothing new.

Open Space Issues:

- Emelyn wrote a letter of thanks to Gloria Carter, who has been voluntarily providing landscaping around the sign at the Larry Leavitt Preserve.
- Intents to cut: none of interest.
- Watts Preserve Walkway – Jack reported on recent developments. Audubon has said they do not want to relocate the trail but they will approve the placement of a gravel bed to support the footings for the new walkway. They indicated that the gravel could be piled near the parking area until it can be used in walkway construction. Harry asked if Stephanie Barnes was going to pay for the gravel as part of the expenses she had already agreed to undertake as a donation to the town and ECC. Al reported that he had recently paid \$275 for a ten-yard load of gravel, to give ECC a general idea of pricing. Jack expects to need less than ten yards for this project. Jack described the whole project to Dave because Dave had been out of the commission when it began.
- Boat Ramp picnic table – Jack and Al went out on the hottest day last week to dig holes for the concrete footings for the roof structure. They plan to go out on the hottest days this week to test and pour the concrete for the footings. Jack and Al are crazy, but cool. Rock on.

Education and Outreach:

- Litter grabbers – The half-dozen Arc Mate Orang-U-Tongs arrived with a special bonus half-dozen cheaper models. Emelyn suggested that these would be good for kids to use when they come out for roadside cleanups.
- ECC brochures – Emelyn and Jack folded 300 brochures with machinelike precision after they arrived from the printer, saving the taxpayers of Effingham a significant amount of money. The brochures look great except for one bit of awkward hyphenation. Such things are inescapable these days. Brochures will be placed at the library, town offices, GMCG office and the LLP kiosk.
- ECC website – Jack described his work on the website. He and Emelyn have been working on the formatting and content to present to Theresa Swanick for uploading. Members

discussed a few adjustments and the addition of photos. Dave suggested having some short videos as well.

- Events: The town attorney, Matt Serge, will answer questions from town officials and the public at a presentation Thursday, July 10 at the town offices at 6:30 p.m.; Claudia has asked for volunteers to assist Bill Wrabel on behalf of Effingham at the LRPA hazardous waste collection day, Saturday, August 2; There will be a Maine-NH meeting sponsored by the York County Invasive Species Project, Thursday, July 17 in Porter from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Emelyn plans to attend. Other members are welcome; GMCG is holding an Ossipee Watershed Community Forum on Saturday, July 12 at Totem Pole Park in Freedom from 9 a.m. to noon.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Bill Wrabel needs to be sworn in as an alternate member. This can be done at the July 8 BOS meeting.
- Emelyn has requested the checks be sent for the town's contribution to GMCG water quality testing and the PLA lake host program.
- Members discussed an application for a Special Use Permit requested by the Neville Family Trust for Map 405, Lot 19-1. The planning board had asked for ECC input before hearing the application. The Neville Trust seeks relief from the 150-foot Exemplary Wetland buffer specified in the Effingham Zoning Ordinance on a lot of record subdivided before the buffer was put into effect. Due to the minimal incursion into the wetland and the likelihood that any regulatory or legal inquiry would find in favor of the landowner, ECC voted to offer no objection.
- ECC approved permission for Harry Libby to cross a conservation lot of Town House Road to gain access to a timber harvesting area in which he will be operating. The commission requested a written request to which a written reply can be made so ECC and Harry have documentation in case of any questions during or after the cut.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, August 4, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Emelyn Albert (*Chair*); Dave Goulet (*Prodigal Member*); Al Levesque; Harry Libby; Tim White (*Recording Secretary*); Jack Williams (*Vice Chair/Treasurer*); Virginia Wrabel; Absent: Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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