

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, August 4, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the July meeting were approved.
- Jack presented the financial report. The balance remaining in the 2014 budget is \$84.31 after expenditures for the picnic table roof at the boat ramp on Route 153, the PLA Lake Host Program contribution and the annual partial compensation to GMCG for water quality testing at sites in Effingham. \$10,730.00 remains in the Invasive Aquatic Plant fund, with \$1,500.00 more expected by year-end. Nothing has been expended yet for milfoil mitigation efforts yet to be conducted this year. The ECC savings account shows a balance of \$14,636.00

Water Issues: Nothing new

Open Space Issues:

- LLP – Emelyn place ECC brochures at the kiosk. She reports that Gloria Carter has placed a pot of pink impatiens at the bird watch platform.
- Watts Preserve Walkway – Jack reports he almost got to start work in the wetland before we got another four inches of rain. Following the directive from Audubon that the walkway needs to stay on its current route, Jack revised the design to five sections. Stephanie Barnes, who is funding the project, agreed to cover the increased costs, but also has been advocating with Audubon for the easier route explored by Jack, bypassing the problems where the old walkway has deteriorated from the wet conditions. This route had been rejected by Phil Brown of Audubon, but with Stephanie's interest may become viable again. Chair suggested sending a letter of support from ECC to Audubon that might facilitate progress, whatever that turns out to be.
- Boat Ramp picnic shelter – Jack, Al, Bill Wrabel and Wayne Fisher completed the roof over the picnic table. ECC will send a letter of thanks to Wayne. Al suggested greater tokens of thanks were appropriate in view of Wayne's energetic contributions. Meanwhile, members signed the letter of thanks.

Education and Outreach:

- ECC website – Jack and Emelyn will meet with Theresa Swanick on Thursday, August 7 to work on updating the ECD website. Meanwhile, ECC has received pictures from Kamal Nath, and from Al and Sis Levesque to add to the site.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- ECC members approved renewing the membership terms for Jack and Harry through 2017. Thanks for hangin' in there.
- Members took a quick squint at the new version of the town master plan. More detailed squinting to follow.

- Bill Wrabel was sworn in as an alternate member of ECC on July 8.
- Chair sent a letter to the Planning Board confirming that the ECC had no objections to the Special Use Permit requested by the Neville Family Trust for Map 405, Lot 19-1.
- Emelyn attended a meeting on invasive plants on July 17 in Porter, Maine. She reports that Maine is doing almost nothing about milfoil control and that many municipalities along the Ossipee and Saco rivers draw their drinking water from the river. ECC members and helpers will begin boat surveys of Effingham waters soon to check on the chronic milfoil areas and look for any new ones.
- Emelyn and Jack attended a Bioblitz on July 19 in the Green Hills in Conway, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. Attendees counted all forms of life in the target area. Finds included Wood Lily, a rare plant.
- Emelyn and Jack made two Anabat runs in July. The project, overseen by NH Audubon, makes acoustical surveys of bat populations by listening for their calls and echolocation sounds using audio equipment.

Mail – One Permit by Notification notification from DES.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, September 8, 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*). Absent: Dave Goulet (*Prodigal Member*); Virginia Wrabel; Bill Wrabel (*alt.*).

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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