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\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, October 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the September 8 meeting were presented and approved.
- Financial Report: Jack presented the latest report showing a budget balance of \$84 and change remaining. The conservation fund balance is projected to be \$11,830.00 by year end.

Water Issues: none

### Land Issues – LLP/Boat Ramp:

- Members discussed possible land projects for 2015. Improved signage and some habitat enhancements had already been proposed last month. Members will continue to generate ideas.
- Intents to cut: Stephanie Barnes has been reporting none. Chair asked if anyone else on the commission was interested in pursuing a more active oversight. Crickets chirped.
- Watts Preserve: Jack reported that the easy rerouting of the trail seems to have gotten the go-ahead from Audubon instead of rebuilding the walkway through the wetland the trail presently traverses. Phil Brown of Audubon apparently made his site visit, met with Stephanie and agreed that redirecting the trail made more sense. Audubon will pursue official documentation from Bill Klotz to secure the right of way in perpetuity or for however long it seems like a good idea. Perpetuity seems so...perpetual. New route will be marked with directive signage from the trailhead.

Education and Outreach: ECC did neither this month. Sometimes it's like that.

### Other Business and Special Reports:

- 2015 Budget: Members discussed remaining categories in the budget request not yet finalized:
  1. Province Lake Association Lake Host allocation – PLA had asked for an increase in Effingham's contribution to the Lake Host program to \$1,500.00. Peter Dinger of PLA responded to all questions sent to him in an email from the Chair, which led members during discussion to come up with more questions regarding sources of funding and lakeshore resident involvement. PLA currently staffs the boat launch with lake host inspectors looking for invasive plants Friday through Sunday on every weekend from Memorial Day through the Labor Day holiday and on the holiday Mondays. They ultimately hope to increase funding from just under \$8,000.00 to more than \$14,000.00 to increase lake host coverage to seven days a week in season. During discussion, ECC members expressed concerns about whether invasive plant inspections, which discovered no incoming plants all last season, are a more important expenditure compared to pollution mitigation which is clearly needed. A better understanding of funding sources is

needed, as well as a better overview of proportional expenditures on Province Lake Watershed efforts compared to just the lake host initiative. Members voted to keep the Lake Host allocation from Effingham at its current \$1,000.00 for now. Members suggest PLA draft a warrant article for Town Meeting to get full voter input on their proposals.

2. NHACC membership: Over the past couple of years, ECC had eliminated the line item for NHACC membership because the membership seemed to yield little benefit that could not be duplicated from other sources that are either free of charge or already covered in other ways. Chair reported she had received a letter from Nicholas Coates of NHACC asking to meet with ECC to discuss the advantages of membership that might not be obvious. Apparently, NHACC does a lot of lobbying on behalf of conservation commissions when legislation threatens to remove support from conservation commissions and their initiatives. This important and often unseen function makes membership appear beneficial once again. Members voted to return the line item for NHACC dues to the budget request and to invite Nicholas Coates to the December meeting.
3. Speaking of NHACC: Their annual conference will be held Saturday, November 1 in Laconia.
4. GMCG will hold a presentation on How can we guide and protect, on Thursday, November 6 at Runnels Hall, Chocorua, from 6 to 8 p.m.
5. ECC website: Jack showed a slide show of awesome photos to be included on the website.
6. Effingham town official/volunteer appreciation dinner: Potluck dinner and awards presentation will be held Tuesday, October 14 at the Municipal Offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, November 3, 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; Absent: Dave Goulet; Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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