

These minutes are draft until approved

Approved

Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, August 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. Blair Folts and Jason Earle from GMCG attended. Members agreed to open the meeting with Blair and Jason's presentation on the GMCG project to enhance a vernal pool on the Heron House property GMCG is improving as the site of their new headquarters. Due to complicated communications prior to the ECC meeting in July, the commission had not received a detailed explanation of the project prior to the submission of the requisite permit applications to DES. Blair and Jason stressed that all work at the Heron House site would be designed to showcase best management practices for the work in question.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the July 6 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Jack reported that \$1,727.00 of the 2015 budget of \$3,622.00 had been expended, leaving a balance of \$1,895.00

Water Issues:

- Milfoil: Freedom Conservation Commission and ECC have been working together to clean up infested areas reported by Mike St. Hilaire to Jim McElroy of FCC. AS of the end of July, Cliff Cabral of NE Milfoil had put in about 1½ days of work billable to ECC, with more still needed.

Land Issues:

- Remick Road: Tom Townsend reported to Rebecca Boyden on July 21 that there had been brush clearance along the shoreline of Darayl Remick's property. Some residents along Remick Road had voiced concern about a nesting pair of loons along that shore frontage. Emelyn and Jack checked out the site and joined the communication with Darayl to protect the loons.
- Speaking of Remick Road: With Darayl's potential offer of 80 acres to the town for conservation land, the problem of road ownership becomes more crucial. Remick Road is a private way at this point, not up to town standards. It is maintained by residents, but without a formal association and set standards. Progress on this has been leisurely, but will have to speed up as Darayl gets ready to implement a formal succession plan.
- Remick Property: Al, Emelyn and Jack are planning an expedition to the Remick Wilderness as preliminary reconnaissance in case Darayl makes a formal offer of the land.
- ECC Land Improvements: Jack presented updated information on designs and materials for signs that can be placed on conservation lots with road frontage. Members discussed the merits of materials such as cedar, locust, and composites.

- Pine River Road lot: Al had suggested investigating funding to purchase a 14.83 acre lot on Pine River Road. The wooded parcel has a lot of wetland, and river frontage, making it an excellent candidate for a conservation lot with great recreational potential. It has been on the market for some time, with little interest, and the price has been reduced. Al reports that the listing agent has said that the owners might be amenable to some arrangement. Kamal Nath provided leads for possible grant funding. Al will continue research and keep the commission informed.

Education and Outreach:

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Claudia asked Emelyn for suggestions for a route to be used for a walk to raise awareness of the heroin problem in Carroll County. Members discussed a couple of options for acceptable routes and settled on Lost Valley as having the best potential for a closed course with relatively few traffic issues.
- Emelyn will release the annual town contribution to the GMCG water testing program, administered through the ECC budget.
- GMCG will hold their annual dinner and auction on Saturday, August 15, at Province Lake Golf Course. The featured speaker is alpinist, write and photographer Freddie Wilkinson.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next regular meeting will be held Monday, September 14, 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 (*alt*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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