

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, February 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the January 4 meeting were presented and approved.
- Financial Report: The 2016 budget request is \$3,464.00. Of this, \$266.00 has been paid to the grant writer. Those funds, already taken, will be charged against the 2016 budget. The Conservation Fund received \$650.00 in current use change taxes. Total input from 2015 was \$1,244.40. The fund balance was \$17,422.00 as of Dec. 31, 2015. A check for \$500 has been withdrawn since then to begin the process of acquiring 14.83 acres on Pine River Road for public land.
- Kamal Nath was sworn in on Jan. 26 as an alternate member of ECC. The other members welcome him back to the asylum.

Water Issues: None

Land Issues:

- Map 413, Lot 160 – Per instructions from grant writer Ben Daviss (hired through NHACC), ECC has commissioned GMCG to act as the 501(c)(3) fiscal agent to receive certain grant monies Daviss says need to be processed in this way. Johanna Vienneau has agreed to act as the project treasurer. She will be responsible for receiving checks, recording them on a spread sheet and generally keep track of bookkeeping needs related to the project. ECC Chair requested \$500 be released from the Conservation Fund to open an account at Citizens Bank specifically for this project.

Daviss submitted a draft of the grant request. Kamal questioned the procedures based on his experience writing a number of successful grants for ECC during his tenure as chair. Emelyn will follow up with Daviss to clarify what might be different about the grants being sought this time, and with other points regarding process and time line.

Members reviewed a draft of the MOU with GMCG and the fiscal agent agreement. Emelyn will follow up with GMCG regarding some editing and technical issues. Town Attorney Matt Serge had reviewed some of the documentation, but maybe called on for further oversight as the drafts become finalized.

Education and Outreach:

- There will be a workshop on the Wildlife Action Plan update, on Wednesday, February 17, in Portsmouth, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Emelyn, Jack and Kamal are considering attending.
- Members are brainstorming ideas for this year's Earth Day Poster Contest. Kamal suggested "Bugs: What are They Good For?" Other members fired in bug-related variations, indicating perhaps a swarm of ideas getting ready to hatch.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- The commission's 2016 budget request passed the Budget Committee in November. The next stage is the hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 2.
- Don't forget to vote in the primary next Tuesday, Feb. 9.
- The annual report for Town Meeting received warm reviews.
- GMCG's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27 at Hobbs Tavern, starting at 4:30 p.m. Sounds like dinner time at the old folks home. The speaker will be Chris Schadlers, an expert on wolves and eastern coyotes

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, March 7, 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*) Kamal Nath (*alt.*). Absent: Virginia Wrabel; Dave Goulet (*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

These minutes are draft until approved