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\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, March 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Blair Folts from GMCG attended.

Blair presented plans for work to be done at GMCG's Heron House property, in support of an application to the Planning Board for a special use permit. This is part of the process to convert the use of the property from residential to commercial. It also involves site work impacting wetlands and reconfiguring the building, driveway, and parking.

The public hearing for actual Planning Board approval or denial will be held Thursday, April 7, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m. Site plan review hearing will follow, if the special use permit is approved.

Blair was unable to provide a copy of the actual application the ECC has been asked to review. Pending delivery of a copy, ECC feels encouraged that the materials presented so far will be satisfactory for the commission to recommend approval.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the February 1 meeting were approved
- Financial Report: basically unchanged. ECC awaits town meeting approval of the 2016 budget. Voters also need to approve the warrant article replacing funds used for milfoil control to bring the Invasive Aquatic Plant Fund back up to be ready for 2016's milfoil control expenses.
- Town meeting opens on Tuesday, March 8 with voting at Effingham Elementary School from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The deliberative session begins on Saturday, March 12, at Effingham Elementary School at 9 a.m.

### Water Issues:

- GMCG special use permit application – ECC voted not to object to the issuance of the permit, pending the delivery of a copy of the actual application, so that the commission can forward the proper documentation to the planning board.
- Commission received an application for matching funds from DES to be used for milfoil control. Application must be submitted by Sept. 15 to receive funding for 2017.

### Land Issues:

- Pine River Lot – Cherubini preserve: Commission approved latest draft of the grant solicitation letter. Chair will forward it to grant writer Ben Daviss.

### Education and Outreach:

- Emelyn will set up an informational display table for Town Meeting, highlighting the spring litter cleanup.

- Save the Bobcats: Tim presented a draft of a letter to submit to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, expressing opposition to the proposed bobcat hunting and trapping seasons. Members provided immensely useful input, which resulted in a shorter, more concise, more factual presentation. The revised draft will be submitted to JLCAR.
- Earth Day Poster Contest: This year's theme will be "Good Bugs/Bad Bugs." Submissions should illustrate beneficial or harmful effects that insects have on the environment. Emelyn has put together a cute poster to promote the contest.
- Earth Day Roadside Cleanup: Following the usual format, KELF volunteers and other interested citizens will go out on Saturday, April 30, to collect litter from the side of town roads. Lunch will be provided. Emelyn will approach Bill Wrabel about being grill master. Kamal will notify KELF members.
- Emelyn, Jack, and Kamal attended the Wildlife Action Plan update meeting on Feb. 7 in Portsmouth. Emelyn and Jack report that it was underwhelming.
- There will be a Saving Special Places workshop on Saturday, April 9, in Alton Bay. The town, not the actual bay.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 4, 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.*); Kamal Nath (*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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