

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, April 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the March 7 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: The ECC Fund has a balance of \$16,400.00. \$3,464.00 remains in the budget allocation for 2016. \$500.00 was paid to GMCG for legal expenses related to the purchase of conservation land on Pine River Road. The Invasive Plant Fund has \$11,840.00 following approval of additional funds at Town Meeting.
- Communications, interactions with other town boards: GMCG goes before the Planning Board on Thursday, April 7, for consideration of their application for a Special Use Permit for work proposed at the Heron House property.

Water Issues:

- ECC will prepare an application for funds from NHDES to meet expenses from this year's milfoil control activities. Application deadline is September 15 for funds to be received in 2017.
- ECC received a wetland application for review. The town has submitted an application to DES for replacement of the bridge/culvert on Stevens Road. Tim will review the application to see if the commission has any observations to share before it gets approved anyway.

Land Issues – LLP/Boat Ramp:

- Map 413, Lot 160 purchase, Pine River Road: Chair will contact Lynne Butler to gain an extension on the purchase and sale agreement, as the commission pursues grant funding. Seller offered up to a year, although the initial agreement had a shorter expiration date. Four grants have been applied for. A fifth application is in process. Of the four applications submitted, one appears to have been rejected as not meeting the granting body's criteria. ECC will also investigate funding through LCHIP, but will prioritize grants with shorter approval times.

Education and Outreach:

- Earth Day Poster Contest: With the theme, "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs," the contest has been launched at EES with the approval of school Principal Kelly Sawyer Colby. Poster entries will be picked up on April 22.
- Earth Day Roadside Trash Cleanup: Plans proceed for the annual litter-gathering extravaganza. Virginia will buy groceries. Bill will serve as grillmeister. Chair will contact Dave Goulet to see if he can take care of posting the signs a week ahead. Jack and unnamed helper or helpers will pick up trash bags at the end of the event and convey them to the transfer station. Kamal will notify KELF members. The litterbugs have already made generous contributions. On a serious note, Tim suggested instituting a policy for safe

collection and disposal of any hypodermic syringes found during the cleanup. Because these are biohazard waste, they will need to be collected safely and disposed of properly, to avoid risk to litter gatherers and transfer station personnel.

- There will be a Saving Special Places workshop on Saturday, April 9, in Alton.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Bobcat Hunt: At the April 1 JLCAR meeting, the proposed bobcat hunting season was not approved. As it goes through further governmental review, it could still be instituted.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, May 2, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Emelyn Albert (*Chair*); Al Levesque; Harry Libby; Kamal Nath (*alt.*); Tim White (*Recording Secretary*); Jack Williams (*Vice Chair/Treasurer*). Absent: Virginia Wrabel; Bill Wrabel (*alt.*); Dave Goulet (*alt.*).

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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