

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, May 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Guests included Tom Thompson and Barry Keith.

Wetland scientist Barry Keith presented plans and information regarding projects at the Snow Farm property on Snow Road, currently owned by Chuck and Grace Fuller. The Fullers are working with DES and Keith to correct numerous wetland violations and execute repair and some expansion of the farmhouse. The extensive work should result in improved drainage and wetland function. The project is being presented to the Planning Board for approval of a Special Use Permit.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the April 4 meeting were approved
- Financial Report: \$2,180.87 remains in the 2016 budget of \$3,730.00. \$912.00 was paid to Ben Daviss for grant writing. \$67.27 was spent on the Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. \$250.00 was paid out for the summer environmental camp. \$55.86 was paid to Emelyn Albert to reimburse her for books to be given as prizes in this year's poster contest.

Water Issues:

- GMCG received approval of its Special Use Permit for the work proposed at the Heron House site.
- ECC received an application form to apply for matching funds for milfoil control. The deadline for this is Sept. 15 to receive funds for 2017.

Land Issues:

- Map 413, Lot 160, Pine River Road: Five grants have been submitted. One has been rejected. More are under development. The purchase and sales agreement has been extended to September to allow more time for fundraising. Given the time frame for application, ECC will approach LCHIP for funds to support the conservation easement rather than the initial purchase of the land.

Education and Outreach:

- Earth Day Roadside Cleanup: Turnout on Saturday, April 30 was 28 volunteers, one of them performing mandated community service. Eight volunteers were new. A total of 182 bags was collected. Discarded tires are a problem all over town, particularly for landowners with easy access from the road, such as login roads and landings.
- ECC will try to schedule a presentation at Camp Marist with the staff, before the campers arrive, to enlist and coordinate their efforts to contribute to milfoil control in Marist Cove. Chair will also contact Roberta McCarthy and her sturdy buccaneers regarding their usual thorough efforts.
- Earth Day Poster Contest: ECC members once again crushed the creative dreams of numerous schoolchildren by singling out grade-level winners in the annual poster contest.

This year's theme was, "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs." All entries were creative. Some of them were downright eccentric. It was very hard, as usual, to pick "winners." Our thanks to all the children and faculty who participate in this event.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Following the JLCAR hearing on April 1, Fish and Game withdrew the proposal for bobcat hunting and trapping.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 6, 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 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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