

These minutes are draft until approved

\_\_\_Approved

\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, December 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. Guests included Anne Cunningham, chair of the Freedom Planning Board, and Paul Elie, chair of the Freedom Conservation Commission.

The meeting opened with a presentation by the visiting Freedom town officials regarding their experiences trying to get Ossipee to observe and enforce their own ordinances in the case of the Westward Shores Campground expansion. They reported that Ossipee officials consider that the case will inevitably wind up in court, no matter how they rule. This seems likely, given that no outcome will satisfy all interested parties. However, Cunningham and Elie made a convincing case that Ossipee should have asserted more control over proposed actions by the campground, regardless of the fact that these would doubtless be challenged by the campground's corporate owners. According to Cunningham and Elie, the campground owners have planned structures and facilities that violate federal standards for development in floodplains, as well as failing to meet Ossipee's own criteria for such development. The Town of Freedom has established a fund to help pay for legal costs. Donations are tax deductible. Details will be posted on Effingham Conservation Commission's page on the Effingham website. Effingham's stake in the lake is much smaller, but the most affected parties are large camps, English's and Marist, with much to lose from degraded water quality.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the November 7 meeting were approved
- Financial Report: The 2016 budget allowance still contains \$220.87
- Communications, interactions with other town boards: Brief discussion of proposed new fees at the transfer station.

### Water Issues:

- Milfoil: Jim McElroy of Freedom passed along an invoice from AB Aquatics for the removal of milfoil from Effingham's portion of the Ossipee River. The \$1342.50 to settle this brought Effingham's annual total for milfoil removal to \$4022.50. This was paid out of the town's Invasive Plant capital reserve fund.

### Land Issues – LLP/Boat Ramp:

- Map 413 Lot 160, Pine River Road – Chair reported that the Horne Family Foundation had contributed a check of \$5000.00, improperly made out to the town, instead of ECC's fiscal agent, GMCG. After funds were transferred through the town account, a check was given to GMCG. ECC awaits word from a local foundation regarding a possible major contribution from year-end funds.

### Education and Outreach:

- Harry Libby saw a mature American Chestnut tree on Lord's Hill!

### Other Business and Special Reports:

- 2017 Budget – ECC’s budget request, up \$66.00 from last year, was approved by the budget committee.
- Tim “volunteered” to write the ECC summary for the town’s annual report.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, January 2, 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; Bill Wrabel(*alt.*). Absent: Dave Goulet (*alt.*); Kamal Nath (*alt.*);

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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