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___Approved
___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, January, 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the December 5 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: \$206.87 remained in the 2016 budget. There was \$7,817.52 in the Invasive Aquatic Plant Fund and \$16,423.30 in the Conservation Fund.

Water Issues: none

Land Issues:

- Pine River Road lot acquisition: Members approved the commitment of an additional \$5,000.00 from the Conservation Fund to supplement grants and other funds previously committed totaling approximately \$34,000.00. \$15,000.00 was pledged by the Royal Little Foundation. \$5,000.00 is coming from the Fields Pond Foundation. ECC's portion is \$10,000.00. Needing \$5,000.00 to reach the agreed purchase price, ECC was informed by a private donor that those funds would be provided anonymously to allow the commission to move on to closing.

Members discussed various forms of deed restriction to ensure that the land stays in conservation for perpetuity. Chair will seek authorization to consult with the Town Attorney regarding the effectiveness of various methods, in an attempt to find the lowest-cost solution that might sidestep the need for an official easement.

Members then discussed plans for the lot, including trails, signs, and amenities for wildlife viewing. Chair will investigate a right of way through an existing road that partly uses an abutter's property.

Education and Outreach: None

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Town of Freedom's appeal of Westward Shores Campground expansion: ECC chair provided Freedom CC with contact information for Ossipee Lake Campground (English's), and contacted Jennifer Gilbert at FEMA. FEMA promised nothing, but has at least been informed. Theresa Swanick posted to the ECC website Freedom's appeal for funds to support legal efforts in this process.
- Chair will provide Tim with a fact sheet from which to generate the commission's entry into the 2016 Town Report.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, February 7, 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; Dave Goulet (*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*).

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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