

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, March 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m.

- Pat Morrissey, principal of Effingham Elementary School attended as a guest. In addition to discussing the Earth Day Poster Contest, she wanted to thank ECC for supporting the elementary school's participation in the Ferry Beach Environmental Camp for more than 15 years. According to Emelyn, it has been more than 20. Pat also wanted to know if anyone knew the history of the compost bins in use at the school. EES has a very successful composting program. Kamal said he would find support resources for the school in case bins need to be repaired, replaced, or augmented.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the February 6 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Pending approval at Town Meeting, the budget of \$3,796 remains untapped. The conservation fund earned 43 cents interest last month. The balance in the fund stands at \$7,428 after the expenditure of \$10,000 toward the purchase of the Pine River Road property.
- Communications, interactions with town boards: Town meeting opens on Tuesday, March 14 with ballot voting at Effingham Elementary School, Partridge Cove Road, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. It continues in the deliberative session on Saturday, March 18 at the school at 9 a.m.

Water Issues:

- DES Milfoil Grant – Members discussed the proposal provided by Amy Smagula at DES for the milfoil harvesting operations scheduled for Ossipee Lake this summer. These include chemical treatment and hand pulling. The town's share would be \$10,888, which slightly exceeds the entire amount in the invasive aquatic plant fund. The scientific basis for the extent of treatment was not made adequately clear in the materials DES provided, so the commission decided to decline the grant for this year. ECC will contract with Cliff Cabral of New England Milfoil to survey the known sites in Effingham, particularly Marist Cove, to determine what should be done. Last year's harvest was quite small, and the commission had received no indications that large-scale, expensive treatments would be called for in 2017. Getting a new survey to provide a baseline seems like the more prudent course. Volunteers will check the lower Ossipee River, where shallow water makes surface observation easier.

Land Issues:

- Pine River Road property – Emelyn, Jack, and Tim presided over an empty room on Monday, Feb. 13 for the public hearing required to precede the purchase. They waited about half an hour to see if anyone would arrive with questions or other input. They then returned to snow removal at their homes. Continued snowy weather complicated and delayed the process of getting the deed signed and delivered, but everything was completed in time. Emelyn and Jack delivered the deed to the registry and sent checks and thank you letters to

Mr. Cherubini and to Maxfield Real Estate. The original deed was delivered to the town. Copies of the recorded deed were provided to the town attorney and to ECC.

- Access – Emelyn has sent a letter to Thomas Healy of Quincy, Mass., to request a right of way over a woods road that originates at Pine River Road on Mr. Healy's property, abutting the new preserve. This would be temporary, to facilitate initial operations on the preserve, which would include establishing an independent entrance from the preserve's own frontage.
- Chair sent a concluding report the Fields Pond Foundation, a requirement specified in the grant. Members discussed other details of the grant process. The NHACC grant writer produced two successful proposals. Chair used portions of those to write the third grant.
- Members discussed possible names for the preserve. Pine River/Cherubini Preserve had general support for acknowledging the site and the generosity of Mr. Cherubini during the process of acquisition. The commission will call on the skills of Jack Williams again for a sign and possible other amenities. Members also discussed siting of the path, parking, and sign on the road frontage of the preserve. Kamal put forward ideas for recognizing any contributors who have not expressed a wish to remain anonymous.
- ECC will arrange with Tom Howe of SPNHF to do a site walk in the spring to develop ideas for appropriate access and general land use planning. Howe has suggested that the property is quite pristine and attractive as it is, so minimal alteration would be advisable. The woods road needs to be cleared and maintained. It reaches the river's edge and provides hand-carry access for canoes and kayaks. Tentative date for the site walk would be the weekend of May 20-21. Wendy Scribner of UNH Extension might also be consulted.

Education and Outreach:

- Earth Day Poster Contest: The theme will be "Wonders of Water." Pat discussed some minor format changes for art submitted by the students at Effingham Elementary School for the ECC annual poster contest. Posters had been submitted on 11" X 17" paper. To facilitate scanning, this will be reduced to 8 ½" X 11". Also, materials may be submitted to GMCG for promotional use by them. Pat will handle contact with GMCG after the ECC contest and collect any permissions needed from parents. ECC will judge the submissions for their contest at the May 1 meeting.
- Town meeting – ECC will be promoting the Wildlife Action Plan at the commission's table, if materials arrive from the state in time. The commission will also have a display promoting the new preserve.
- Freedom Library is hosting a talk on early spring wildflowers on Tuesday, March 14, at 7 p.m.
- Saving Special Places presentation on Saturday, April 8 at Prospect Mountain High School, Alton.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- DES sent a nice booklet on Aquatic Resource Mitigation. Kamal has taken it to review.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 3, 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 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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