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\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, June 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. Andrew Lester of Bella Terra Trail Design attended as a guest.

The commission described the terrain at the PRCP and outlined the needs for the trail or trails there. Andrew will meet with Emelyn on Sunday, June 11 to tour the property and refine the plan.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the May 1 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: The Aquatic Plant fund shows a balance of \$15,000. The Conservation Fund shows \$9,000.

### Land Issues:

- PRCP Parking: Members discussed acquiring and applying fill and gravel to the proposed parking area. It is cooperatively smooth and level to start with.
- The revised deed to Map 413, Lot 160 has been received and recorded. Boundary description is now accurate.
- Numerous phone calls to the only number available for Thomas Healy of Quincy, Mass., have failed to make contact.
- Mr. Cherubini confirmed permission to use his name on the PRCP. He plans to come to Effingham on June 15 or 16 to observe the installation of the memorial bench.
- Joe Daigle, owner of the orchard on Pine River Road, has agreed to remove the boulders from the logging road that accesses the property and then reinstall them after the bench has been delivered.
- Jack marked the parking area and selected a site for the sign. He also took GPS coordinates for the point at which the PRCP property line and the logging road intersect, so that a subtle but effective, natural-looking barrier can be placed there to prevent vehicle access and unauthorized activities.
- Jack and Emelyn cleaned up brush and trash on the logging road. They were joined by Kamal Nath and Wendy Scribner to map out a preliminary trail route. Wendy identified pitcher plants on the property. Trail planners will attempt to reduce or eliminate the need for bridges over wet areas.

### Water Issues:

- Chair contacted Cliff Cabral of New England Milfoil to arrange for 2017 milfoil control activities. She and Cliff planned to attend the Ossipee Lake Alliance meeting on June 10.
- Pete Dinger invited commission members to view the completed shoreline stabilization and erosion control project on his property. Tentatively this was set for Monday, June 12 at 10 a.m.

- Commission needs to send the check to the Province Lake Association for the Lake Host Program.
- Chair planned to attend the June 6 BOS meeting to learn about the status of the Westward Shores appeal. Ossipee sent an official announcement of their Zoning Board rehearing, scheduled for Tuesday, June 13. The announcement pointedly asserted that abutters can only speak during public comment and that their testimony is accepted only at the discretion of the zoning board.

Education and Outreach:

- Bioblitz: Seeking certification as a sanctuary, Province Lake Golf Course hosted a Bioblitz. The one-day event gathered as many knowledgeable individuals as possible to catalog species on the golf course property, to aid in developing a management plan to enhance habitat value. The group had access to a national database to help with species identification. Some examples included Golden Thread (Cankerwort), and Trailing Arbutus.
- Wildlife Action Plan: Jack, Emelyn, and Kamal went to the WAP update presentation, where they picked up the latest educational pamphlets on the different habitats in the state.
- At Al Levesque's suggestion, Emelyn wrote up a short list of fun things to do outdoors in Effingham. It is limited to family-friendly suggestions. Members added a few more items to the list of hikes and other activities. This can be worked up into an outreach publication to promote enjoyment of Effingham's natural resources.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Kamal reported on the explanation he received from DES regarding the rejection of a design submitted by Thomas Townsend. DES informed Kamal that the plan, prepared by Jones and Beach, failed to meet a number of DES criteria.
- Taking Action for Wildlife 2017 Community Assistance Program: Kamal will investigate what this might have to offer for ECC and the Town of Effingham. It aids with identifying and inventorying critical habitats, management of conservation lands, and attracting species of concern.
- Remember the Effingham Preservation Society Street Fair on Saturday, June 24, at the intersection of Town House Road and Route 153.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, July 10, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m. If the main room is not available, the meeting will be the modular.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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