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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, July 10, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the June 10 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: After \$1,000.00 was released to the Province Lake Association for their Lake Host Program, \$1,800.00 has been expended from the 2017 budget, leaving \$2,036.00.

Water Issues:

- Emelyn attended the Weed Watcher workshop with her neighbor, Mary Lord, on June 10. Mary owns kayaks and is interested in surveying the Ossipee River between the Route 25 bridge and Huntress Bridge to look for milfoil and other invasive species. The workshop provided waterproof cards showing invasive species and native species that look similar, to help in identification. Chair reported that DES encourages concerned citizens to send samples of any plant they suspect is invasive. Better to get a sample of something that isn't a problem than to overlook something that should be controlled.
- Emelyn and Jack met with Pete Dinger on June 12 to look at his shorefront erosion control project. Chair reports that the plantings and hardscape, including some granite steps that can't have been cheap, will be an asset not only to the aesthetics of the neighborhood, but to the health of the lake as well.

Land Issues:

- Jack and Emelyn met with Andrew Lester of Bella Terra Trail Design to select the best trail route for basic access to the PRCP. They were joined by Dan Coons of the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission, who had suffered a conveniently-timed flat tire while bicycling on Elm Street. Dan – a wetland scientist -was able to identify a couple of interesting plants in the preserve. Andrew will contact the commission with recommendations. By text during the meeting he said he that he had walked the property again and would discuss his proposal with the Chair when she contacts him. Kamal showed a brochure he got at the Remick Museum in Tamworth, showing their interpretive trail, as one idea for a similar format ECC could use.
- Emelyn, Jack, and Al met with Bob and Ginny Cherubini at the PRCP on June 15 for the installation of the black granite bench provided by the Cherubinis in memory their parents. The Cherubinis plan to attend the official opening of the PRCP later this summer. The commission hopes that benefactors Arthur Little and Jann Leeming will also be able to attend. No date has been set for the event.
- PRCP sign: Jack has completed the sign and acquired 6X6 pressure-treated timbers 12 feet long to set as posts for it. Commission members are now watching the forecast to try to pick the hottest day of the summer on which to dig deep postholes in stony soil and manually erect two massively heavy timbers. Best guess so far is Tuesday, July 18, at 8 a.m. Members discussed the pros and cons of the pressure treated timbers, but don't have the budget or the machinery to install granite posts.

- Jack will contact Claudia about getting a load of fill delivered for the parking area.

Education and Outreach:

- Following up on Al's suggestion, Emelyn has compiled a list of fun outdoor activities in Effingham. She had copies of a hand-drawn town map reduced from 11X17 inches to 8 1/2X11, on which to produce an activity map. She plans to have it ready for the next ECC meeting.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Chair will request the check for \$750.00 to make Effingham's contribution to the GMCG water quality testing program.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 5, somewhere in Ossipee, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Since people can't be arsed to provide full and complete event information anymore, good luck finding out where to queue up and sit in a steaming line of motor vehicles for a couple of hours so that you can properly hand off your annual accumulation of heinous chemicals rather than just chuck them in a ravine on some stranger's property.
- Kamal gave a follow-up report on his research regarding the Taking Action for Wildlife community assistance program. He suggested that any possible request be tailored to ECC's conservation properties and to private holdings already oriented toward protecting and encouraging species of concern.
- Kamal also commended Emelyn for her energetic efforts as ECC chair. This was greeted with hearty grunts of assent from the commission members already rising from their seats in anticipation of adjournment. But we really do love her and value her contribution immensely.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, August 7, 2017, 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; Kamal Nath (*alt.*). Absent: Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m., which was amazingly snappy, considering all the chitchat.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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