

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, November 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Attending were Susan Slack and Corey Lane representing GMCG, Mike Cahalane reporting on a culvert replacement project on Molly Philbrick Road, and Wendy Scribner and Barbara Richter to discuss uses of the Wildlife Action Plan.

- Susan and Corey requested ECC's input on the final phase of an EPA-DES grant GMCG had received to facilitate promotion of BMPs regarding polluting substances identified as probably or definitely used or stored at various businesses in Effingham. They presented a list of businesses and a draft letter and brochure to be sent to them. Members discussed whether the list was current, and other details of the project. Kamal moved and Jack seconded for ECC to co-sponsor the mailing. All voted in favor.
- Mike Cahalane presented design options for placing an improved culvert on Molly Philbrick Road rather than replacing it exactly as it was. Kamal asked how much more it would cost. Mike answered that he did not know for sure, but made the case for long-term benefits gained by a hopefully small investment in function permitted by state regulations without cumbersome permitting. Kamal requested written materials so he could study the situation. Mike said that the culvert may already have been installed, but that improvements could be made to any subsequent culverts using the permitted expansion.
- Wendy Scribner of UNH Extension and Barbara Richter of NHACC provided a wealth of information and suggestions regarding WAP resources Effingham can use to preserve and improve wildlife habitat in the town, targeting species of concern. Wendy, Barbara, and the ECC members present discussed numerous tools and resources at length. Kamal will act as WAP contact for ECC. He offered to write a grant for any project the commission identifies, if a suitable grant is available.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the October 1 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: The 2017 budget has \$893.00 remaining. The conservation fund has 11,300.00 remaining. Milfoil harvesting has cost \$2,780.00 against a balance of \$14,000.00.

Water Issues:

- Milfoil control: Surveys and harvesting have cost a total of \$2,780.00. Cliff Cabral reported that the harvest from Marist Cove was only 5 gallons. The harvest from Ossipee River was 150 gallons. Cliff also reported that the section from Route 25 down to Huntress Bridge Road only had one affected spot with a few plants. The trend has been basically downward since control efforts were initiated. Emelyn will contact Claudia to release funds from the trust fund to reimburse the town.

Land Issues:

- PRCP – Bella Terra is scheduled to deliver bridge timbers to the Preserve next week.

Education and Outreach:

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Emelyn and Jack attended the Berry Bay Association annual meeting. Two members of the State Dam Bureau gave a presentation on the replacement of one section of the Ossipee Lake Dam, and answered questions from attendees. The dam replacement will be funded by a state bond for \$5 million. The work is scheduled to begin in June 2018 and last for approximately a year.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 4, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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