

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, December 4, 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 Nov. 6 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: There is \$893 remaining in the budgeted amount for 2017. It will be added to the conservation fund at the end of the year.

Water Issues:

- ECC submitted a letter to the BOS regarding culvert replacement BMPs after Mike Cahalane's report on a culvert undergoing repair on Molly Philbrick Road. Observers report that the Molly Philbrick Road culvert does not appear to have been replaced yet. The letter advised implementing BMPs on all future culvert replacements, to improve their function in all aspects of drainage, durability, and facilitating wildlife passage.
- ECC is still waiting for GMCG to provide the revised letter to complete the small business water contamination advisory package for businesses in Effingham. Cheryle Fierick updated the list of businesses and Jack Williams put them into a spreadsheet which was forwarded to GMCG. Corey at GMCG said that DES still has to approve the text.

Land Issues:

- PRCP – Andrew Lester of Bella Terra Trail Design has said that he will install bog bridges in the spring. Because the delay originated in Bella Terra's supply line, the company will not submit its invoice until after the bridges are installed.
- Kamal submitted a report on the Bradley property, a 116 acre parcel on Bailey Road being offered for conservation. According to Kamal's investigation, SPNHF has no interest, but TNC might. They believe it has good potential for water quality protection and habitat. Then Harry stated that it had been heavily logged, and had little in the way of interesting vegetation or current attractive habitat. Basically landlocked, the lot can't be developed, so it still has merit for conservation, but it is hardly a jewel. The appraised value is \$97,100. Harry said he would speak to an abutter who owns quite a bit of acreage in that area and would be likely to put the land into conservation.
- Monica Tombasco of South Effingham contacted Emelyn about protecting a 69-acre parcel. Emelyn discussed deed restrictions and easements. Monica also asked about ECC's function and activities. She may join KELF. Kamal will add her email to the list.

Education and Outreach:

- Plans were discussed for placing the Hike and Visit Effingham Map at various places around town where people could pick them up. The usual suspects include the town offices and the library.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Other business/Water Issues, actually: ECC has received reports, and members have observed, cattle improperly enclosed in an area that allows them into a brook. Kamal contacted the ZEO, Rebecca Boyden, who drove by to assess the situation and will send a letter informing the landowner of violations related to this. Kamal requested more information on the extent of the violations. He also contacted NHACC colleagues to get appropriate contact information at DES to follow up at the state level.
- Kamal wanted to publicly acknowledge the assistance he had received Cheryle Fierick and Jeff Libby. ECC adds its collective thanks.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 8, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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