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___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, February 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Dec. 4, 2017 meeting were approved. The January meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum. Several members were ill or absent.
- Financial Report: The balance in the ECC fund is \$11,300.00. Current Use money – if any -- from last year has not been deposited yet. The \$893.00 remaining from the 2017 budget will be deposited to the ECC fund as well. The 2018 budget of \$4,000.00 awaits approval at Town Meeting.
- Communications, interactions with other town boards: Chair reported on an informative informal discussion with Lawrence Edwards regarding bridge repairs in town.

ECC Goals: Chair is soliciting ideas to advance 2018's projects.

Water Issues:

- GMCG sent the letter to Effingham business owners regarding best management practices to avoid water contamination. They did not wait for further input from ECC.

Land Issues:

- Bradley property: Members discussed at length the issues related to Map 106, Lot 17, property offered by the brother of the land's deceased owner, for conservation purposes. Kamal has taken the lead on researching the pros and cons of acquisition for ECC and the town. Although SPNHF and TNC are not interested in picking up the parcel, they have stated that it has conservation values, particularly as it sits on the major inflow for Province Lake. The lot is landlocked, appraised at about \$5,000.00 under Current Use. Harry had previously reported that it had been heavily logged. Because it has no road frontage, it is basically unbuildable. Kamal is researching its conservation values, given its extensive wetlands and location. DES may have grants available specifically targeting aquifer protection. Kamal reported that Tom Howe of SPNHF thought that other grant money might be available. Because the impact is regional, Wakefield, the PLA, and the Acton-Wakefield Watershed Alliance have a stake, so this is really bigger than Effingham alone. There would be habitat benefits to Effingham, but the water quality impact on Province Lake benefits all lakefront stakeholders. In a broader sense, it benefits the taxpayers of every community that derives revenue from shorefront tax revenues. In addition to Kamal's research, Virginia will investigate the various assessments that the owner has cited in setting a preliminary value.
- PRCP: Waiting for spring for Bella Terra to complete the first trail. Members discussed the idea of a second trail on what little dry(ish) land is on the property, as well as interpretive signs. UNH Extension is a good source for maps and signs ready to post on properly designed and constructed facilities.

Education and Outreach:

- WAP: Acting on the information provided at the November Wildlife Action Plan presentation, members discussed ways to generate support for wildlife and habitat preservation. Chair suggested a program on brook trout, a popular and charismatic fish. Kamal advocated for salamanders and amphibians. Wendy Scribner of UNH Extension has suggested a series of presentations. The list of interesting species and habitats in Effingham is impressive. Members discussed other possibilities for public events as well.
- Plans to distribute the Hike and Visit Effingham Map, discussed at the Dec. 2017 meeting, will be pursued in the spring. Meanwhile, Kamal provided a PDF to the library, so that anyone interested can get a printout of it. Members approved placing the PDF on the town website, so that people can view and download it from there as well.
- ECC will discuss putting visitor logs at trails on Green Mountain, the LLP, and PRCP at an upcoming meeting. Placement would not happen until warmer weather.
- Chair suggested that ECC put up a small display about the upcoming state project to replace the Ossipee Lake dam at Town Meeting. Kamal suggested also placing a pile of the Hike and Visit Effingham maps.
- Earth Day Poster Contest: Chair solicited suggestions for this year's topic. Members seem to be closing in on "Trees."

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Kamal reiterated his willingness to compose ECC's annual summary for the Town Report. Due to the loss of the January meeting, the deadline may be quite close. Chair will investigate. Virginia said she would send the collected minutes to Kamal from which to draw highlights.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, March 5, 2018, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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