

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, March 5, 2018

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 Feb. 5 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Pending approval of the 2018 budget at Town Meeting, ECC will have \$4,000.00. A check for \$266.00 was released for payment of NHACC dues. The conservation fund has \$12,200.00 in it. Current Use change taxes have produced \$220.00 which will be added to the fund. Kamal reported that NH Department of Revenue requires a town vote to authorize rolling over the residual funds from a previous year's conservation commission budget into the conservation fund. Members discussed how to proceed for future town warrants.

Water Issues:

- Ossipee Lake Alliance is proposing a three-town coordination of the Lake Host Program. Jim McElroy of Freedom estimates that each town would contribute \$300 to participate in a grant that would help fund monitors at public boat launches. ECC already contributes \$1,000.00 to the lake host program on Province Lake. Because Effingham's Ossipee Lake frontage is minuscule, members debated the value of paying a full third of the cost to take part in a program that may be narrowly targeted on the smallest piece of waterfront in the town. Chair will follow up with OLA and Jim McElroy to see if the program is broader in scope than it appears.

Land Issues:

- The Bradley property, Map 106, Lot 17, has been sold to Lois Poster. At this time, no specific conservation protections have been put in place on the property.
- PRCP – As previously reported, trail work will be completed as soon as the belated and relentless snow goes away.

Education and Outreach:

- Earth Day Poster Contest: Chair submitted a flyer to the commission for discussion and approval, with the headline, "Trees are important to us and the Earth." Members discussed other possible phrasing and emphasis to capture the attention and interest of school children between the ages of about 5 and 12.
- Wildlife Action Plan: Members discussed possible topics, speakers, venues, and dates, for presentations promoting interest in wildlife and habitat around town. Kamal will check with UNH Extension and NHACC for recommendations of presenters with programs ready to play.
- Distribution plans for the Hike and Visit Effingham map will be implemented in the spring. ECC will make them available at Town Meeting.

- Members discussed how to reinstate visitor logs at trail heads in town. This will also move forward as the weather cooperates.
- ECC will put up a display at Town Meeting explaining the dam reconstruction project at the outlet of Ossipee Lake (Berry Bay).
- Roadside Cleanup – The annual litter collection is scheduled for Saturday, April 21. Kamal will handle email contact. Other promotion will come in April, closer to the event.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Rumor has it that our escaped member, Al Levesque, will be back at the end of the month. Members debated rumors they had heard confirming or questioning this news. We will be happy to see him whenever he appears.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 2, 2018, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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