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Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, June 4, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Mike Cahalane of the BOS was attending.

- The meeting opened with a discussion of the 2006-'08 culvert study conducted by students at UNH in the Department of Natural Resources. Mike is attempting to inventory all the culverts in town, to generate a prioritized list of those in need of repair and upgrading. This is intended to protect the taxpayers' investment in roadways, as well as improve water flow and wildlife connectivity. The lengthy discussion touched on funding sources and existing information generated by the '06-'08 study. The rankings from that study do provide a list of the worst culverts disclosed by that survey, which are likely the actual worst remaining in town. No mitigation work has been done since the study, and these things don't tend to heal on their own. Members will review copies of the culvert study and provide their recommendations to the Chair, who will forward the collective results to Mike. They are also free to visit the actual culverts for up to date site impressions.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the May 7 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: \$699.47 has been expended from the 2018 budget, leaving \$3,300.00 remaining. The ECC Fund has \$12,224.00. The Aquatic Invasive Plant Fund contains \$15,000.00.
- Members signed an Official Memorandum of Support to be delivered to Harry Libby, who is undergoing hip replacement surgery.
- Virginia Wrabel presented her letter of resignation. She is stepping down to alternate status.

Water Issues:

- Jim McElroy did not have updated information on the coordinated Lake Host Program to present at the Ossipee Lake Alliance meeting on May 18. Chair recommended that ECC release the annual \$1,000.00 contribution to the Province Lake Association, rather than wait any longer to see what happens with a broader, multi-town program.

Land Issues:

- LLP in the News: Jack, Emelyn, Bill Wrabel, Kamal Nath, and Tim met at the old preserve on May 22 to clear away winter blowdowns, and inspect the facilities. Bill cut and placed logs to replace the rotted remnants of the parking lot perimeter. All members moved brush and debris to a large pile by the parking area. They also raked out the paths and trimmed away some overgrowth. Chair suggested hiring Tom Chalkins to transport the debris to the transfer station. Kamal moved and Virginia seconded to allocate \$100 dollars to pay for this. The motion was approved.

- PRCP – Andrew Lester informed the Chair that he is waiting for his work crew to get out of school for the summer. He will then place the plank bridges that are the last link in the trail system. Kamal and Tim said they would each try to get over to check on other winter damage.

Education and Outreach:

- Book prizes for the Earth Day poster contest were given out to the winners at Effingham Elementary School on May 14. The check for the summer environmental camp was also delivered. Patti Morrissey said that she would coordinate the contest better next year. Participation was sparse this year, as the format seemed a little unclear.
- Hike and Visit Effingham Map – As of June 4, the map had not been posted on the town website yet, but the town office has been handing them out a lot. Jack is making two display boxes for them to be placed at the transfer station.
- Chair ordered eight litter grabbers to rebuild the arsenal for roadside cleanups. Three of these will be added to the ones available at the library for any concerned citizen to check out and use. The price was \$18 each. The shipment was due June 6.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- The Effingham Preservation Society is holding its street fair on Saturday, June 23.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, July 2, 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 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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