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\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, July 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the June 4 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: A check for \$36.18 was received from Wayne Labranche to pay for a lost litter grabber and to purchase one for himself. Payments were issued to the PLA for the Lake Host Program (\$1,000.00) and GMCG for water quality monitoring (\$800.00), leaving \$1,376.00 in the 2018 budget allotment. The ECC Fund has a balance of \$12,224, as shown on the March quarterly bank statement.

### Water Issues:

- Chair updated Harry Libby on the culvert reconnaissance the commission will be conducting to confirm findings from the previous UNH culvert study and target the most problematic culverts for improvement as the town moves forward with road repairs and upgrades. This was requested by Mike Cahalane of the BOS at a previous ECC meeting. Discussion will continue next month. Members can use the original study documents to explore on their own.

### Land Issues:

- LLP Cleanup: Chair contacted Tom Caulkins to request an estimate on brush removal after the cleanup on May 22. Instead, the brush disappeared, and no request for payment has been received. Chair will follow up with him.
- PRCP: Andrew Lester/Bella Terra Trails, apparently still has not placed the wooden bridges that will complete the trail project. Jack will call him to get an update on when this can be expected.
- Chair cut the grass around the picnic table at the Route 153 boat ramp once in June. This will probably need to be done again this month.

### Education and Outreach:

- Kamal proposed a live wild animal presentation for next year's Preservation Society street fair (2019). Because attendance seems to be sparse, he believes that something with more pizzazz might draw a bigger crowd. According to his first round of research, Squam Lakes Science Center seems to offer the best value not only monetarily, but in terms of native species. The other potential provider, Wildlife Encounters, utilizes species from more exotic locales, but nothing really exciting like a leopard, so what's the point? A leopard would really pack 'em in. The commission approved further investigation by Kamal regarding a native species program. So probably no leopard.
- WAP: Still in the wildlife vein, Kamal is still planning to follow up after November to schedule a presentation in the spring.

- Hike and Visit Effingham Map: the map is now available for download on the town website. Jack built two distribution boxes for the Transfer Station. They were delivered on June 27.
- Visitor logbooks: Members discussed ideas for logbooks on the trails of Green Mountain, at the LLP, and the PRCP. Consensus on Green Mountain and Hanson Top was that the books should be at the summits. The LLP seemed like a low priority for a visitor log, due to the roadside nature of it, and its most common apparent use as a picnic site. It didn't seem like a place at which users would be inclined to log in. At the PRCP, members agreed that the best placement would be at the river.
- The commission received eight new trash grabbers. Five are for the ECC fleet. Three were added to the library's set. This brings ECC's total to 12 and the library's to four.
- GMCG will hold the official grand opening for the Blue Heron House on Saturday, July 21, from 5 to 9 p.m. Dr. Rick Van de Poll will give a guided walk around the vernal pool. Festivities will also include a community potluck dinner and live music.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Chair requested that the town release the check for \$800 to GMCG for water quality monitoring.
- Kamal presented information on a tick study being conducted in the state. Anyone can participate by sending ticks they find to the designated address for analysis. If the tick had attached to anyone, and the sender would like the results of disease testing, the fee for that is \$35. Otherwise, the only cost is the postage to mail a tick or ticks. You can find more information at the Bebop Labs website, <https://www.bebop-labs.com>, or email Dr. Kaitlyn Morse at [beboplabsnh@gmail.com](mailto:beboplabsnh@gmail.com).

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, August 6, 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(*alt.*); Virginia Wrabel(*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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