

These minutes are draft until approved

\_\_\_Approved

\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, August 6, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. There were initially no guests or member of the public present. Then Erik Jones and Sandy Finn came out to join us! Quite nice.

The commission met at the picnic table outside the town offices.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the July 2 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: with no expenditures since the July meeting, the budget balance remains at \$1,376.78.

### Water Issues:

- Members discussed Selectman Mike Cahalane's request for help moving forward with culvert repairs and improvements based on information in the 2006 culvert study and as many recent observations as possible. Emelyn, Al, and Virginia agreed to divide up the short list of highest priority culverts from 2006 to determine whether they are any worse or merely just as bad. Kamal reminded the commission that Mike had sought both guidance on culvert prioritization and assistance in writing grants to pay for necessary work.

### Land Issues:

- PRCP: Bella Terra Trails still has not installed the bridges. Andrew Lester has been difficult to reach. On the plus side, he has not submitted an invoice for the extensive trail work already completed, but this loose end makes it impossible for ECC to clear that line item from the budget. We will continue to try to reach him to finish the project.
- Emelyn cut the grass at the picnic area by the Route 153n boat ramp, and the ferns on the parking area at the PRCP.

### Education and Outreach:

- Following up on Kamal's suggestion that ECC book a live animal presentation for the Preservation Society's street fair in June, 2019, members discussed appropriate locations and program types. Al suggested that COVERTS might be a source. Erik Jones suggested the Center for Wildlife in York, ME. Kamal reminded members that they had preferred the Squam Lakes Science Center over Wildlife Encounters at the July meeting, when those were the only two options considered. Date of the street fair will affect the availability of venues, because the library hosts a poetry workshop that may conflict with one possible weekend. Kamal will talk to Karen Payne to see if the date for the fair can be set to keep the library option open.
- Regarding the WAP presentation about brook trout, under consideration since the spring, Kamal will continue contact with Fish and Game for a program next May.

- Hike and Visit Effingham map: The map is now available on the town website. Jack built two display boxes for the Transfer Station, where they have been installed.
- Visitor logbooks: Members discussed the ongoing topic of placing visitor logbooks at the LLP, PRCP, and the summit of Green Mountain. LLP and PRCP require only construction and maintenance of some kind of sheltering container for visitor registers in a format yet to be decided. Possibilities include separate index cards or a notebook of some kind. Because the summit of Green Mountain is on state land, permission is required for a log station at the summit. Kamal contacted Bob Hardy of the NH Division of Forests and Lands, who referred him to Bob Spoerl. Kamal sent the Hike and Visit Effingham map to them for review as the first step to getting permission to place a log station some time this fall.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- A Major Award: NHACC is sponsoring a statewide competition for a Conservation Commission Outstanding Achievement Award. Members discussed whether ECC had qualifying achievements within the past calendar year, and how they might be presented. As a member of NHACC, Kamal presented background information, but recused himself from active participation in the application itself. Emelyn will write a draft of the entry, and Tim will review it.
- Harry reported that the northerly of the two Liberty Elm trees planted on Lord's Hill is dying. Members discussed whether the replacement guarantee that came with the tree, related to Dutch Elm Disease, might apply. Emelyn will look up the paperwork and decide whether to pursue it. Harry also reported that the southerly tree, planted in mostly pieces of brick and rock, is large and thriving.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Sept. 10, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m., or in the modular if the meeting room is occupied.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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