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___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, October 1, 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 Sept. 10 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: \$1,377.00 remains of the 2018 budget. \$1,610.00 was paid out from the aquatic invasive plant capital reserve fund, leaving a balance of \$13,450.00

Water Issues:

- Cliff Cabral and his crew from New England Milfoil conducted a harvest on the Ossipee River on Sept. 21. They collected approximately 20 gallons, for an estimated total of 75-90 plants. This is an excellent result, indicating that the control efforts have been very successful. The bill for this was \$1,610.00, which also included the survey of the river prior to harvest. A survey of Marist cove was paid for by the Berry Bay Association. DES chemically treated four areas of Ossipee Lake that fell entirely in Ossipee's jurisdiction.

Annual Budget: the commission reviewed the 2019 budget worksheet provided the BOS. Members discussed proposed changes to reallocate funds and contain costs while maintaining the commission's ability to perform its mission of resource protection and education. While some categories could remain level-funded, and the land improvements line item could be slightly reduced, plans for more prominent and interactive wildlife education called for an increase in the category for events and education. The budget request will be \$4,305.00, up from \$4,000.00 last year. Chair will answer questions from the budget committee on Oct. 16.

Land Issues:

- PRCP: Jack reported on the progress of Bella Terra Trail Design (Andrew Lester) installing the bridges to complete the trail construction in the PRCP. The wood has been delivered and construction has begun. Andrew had more equipment issues, which have slowed the project, along with the recent inconveniently timed rainy weather.
- Members discussed ideas for a very simple map kiosk at PRCP, interpretive markers along the trail describing plants and other features of interest, and the establishment of a second trail.
- Kamal will look into Al's suggestion that ECC ask the state to provide one of those blue informational signs on Route 16 indicating the PRCP.

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal reported on the status of presentations proposed for next year. The trout presentation will be free from NH Fish and Game. For the interactive wildlife presentation in conjunction with the Street Fair next June, both program providers that were considered require payment. ECC had settled on Squam Lakes Science Center for 2019. The other provider, Wildlife Encounters, of Cape Neddick, ME, provided pricing

information to Kamal that encouraged him to suggest that they be considered for the program the following year, 2020. Effingham is within the radius that they serve, and the pricing is competitive. He urged the commission to request budget funds to promote the wildlife presentation extensively, to launch it as strongly as possible.

- ECC website: Theresa Swanick posted the photo of the third graders at the Ferry Beach Environmental Camp on the home page of the town website. She was also able to add a video submitted by Kamal, to the ECC section of the town site.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- The commission was deeply saddened to learn of the recent death of Stephanie Barnes. Stephanie had been an Effingham resident for a time, during which she was very active in conservation issues. She worked with The Nature Conservancy and Green Mountain Conservation Group to acquire two parcels of land for conservation, as well as consulting with ECC on other lots, and working with landowners directly. She was the first person to call the commission's attention to the presence of milfoil by the Route 153 boat ramp, inspiring the vigilance that continues to this day. Her unique energy will be greatly missed.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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