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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, November 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. Attending as guests from GMCG were Blair Folts, Executive Director of GMCG; Susan Slack, GMCG board member; Jill Emerson, Water Quality Coordinator; Victoria Green, Americorps volunteer for water quality monitoring; and Haley Parent, Americorps volunteer for education and outreach. Jill presented the GMCG mission statement and the latest ten-year report on water quality testing. There was a cheerful and lengthy discussion of the data, and the methods of analyzing and presenting it. The full report is available from GMCG. There will be a presentation on their macroinvertebrate sampling program – which also serves as a citizen science opportunity for school children – on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at the GMCG Heron House at 6:30 p.m. According to Jill, the students are excited to present their findings and would appreciate the support.

After the guests left, the room seemed much colder and emptier.

Organizational Issues: Due to the lack of a quorum, no official business could be conducted.

- The minutes of the Oct. 1 meeting were held over until December to be reviewed.
- Financial Report: The budget balance for 2018 stands at -\$1,123.00 because the funds were released to pay Bella Terra Trail Design \$2,500.00 for the completion of the trail in the PRCP. Because the project spanned two budget years, funds from the first year had been moved to the ECC Fund, and so are not listed under the 2018 annual budget. The requisite amount will be transferred to balance the books. This was a previously authorized transaction, so the commission did not have to act on it at this meeting. The fund balance also shows a deposit of \$250.00, which is probably Current Use Change Tax proceeds.
- Budget committee: Although the chair missed the budget committee meeting, she was able to go before the BOS and the chair of the budget committee and get the ECC budget request approved to go onto the town warrant for March 2019.
- Members discussed briefly whether the commission might enact a seasonally adjusted quorum requirement to cover for member or members who winter elsewhere. Any decision will, of course, have to wait until the next ECC meeting that has a quorum present.

Water Issues: GMCG discussion above

Land Issues:

- As reported above, the trail bridges are now complete in the PRCP.
- On information from Andrew Lester, Tim checked on the condition of the PRCP sign. Andrew had reported severe delamination of the plywood disc. Tim photographed the damage and alerted Emelyn and Jack. They inspected the sign, removed it, and determined that it will have to be replaced. Jack explained improvements in the design

for the next sign, which will use oak planks, joined and sealed, to avoid the vulnerability to moisture inherent in plywood.

- Jack picked up the homeless guy's camping equipment from the river bank in PRCP. After determining that the owner no longer needed it, he cleaned it up. Emelyn then conveyed it to the White Horse Thrift Shop, whose profits support drug rehabilitation. This was also suggested by Al, our winter migrant member. We wish him ideal temperatures and humidity down in the tropics.

Education and Outreach:

- Live Animal Presentation: Kamal reported on his attempts at preliminary contact with Squam Lakes Science Center to set up the presentation scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 2019. That division of SLSC has shut down for the winter, so arrangements apparently can't be made until at least May 1, 2019. Failing that, Kamal suggests that Wildlife Encounters, of Cape Neddick, ME, is still available to provide a program. Kamal will also coordinate with GMCG and the library to make sure that no schedule conflicts arise. He also wants to cross-promote with the Effingham Historical Society to see if their input can boost attendance. He will also let UNH Cooperative Extension know about the program as it relates to the WAP.
- Trout presentation: Kamal remains prepared to contact Fish and Game to schedule a presentation on brook trout for Friday, April 19, 2019, at the Effingham Library at 6:30 p.m.
- PRCP interpretive trail: Kamal reported that Wendy Scribner of UNHCE said that she would help with information to install educational markers to identify plants along the trail in the PRCP.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Theresa Swanick posted the memorial to Stephanie Barnes on the ECC website with the permission of Barbara Fortune. The chair also sent Barbara a sympathy card on behalf of ECC.
- Kamal reports that the Libby Road Trail cannot be promoted on the Hike and Visit Effingham map. Due to the trail's crossing of different jurisdictions, people can use it, but it should not be advertised. All old maps will be withdrawn and replaced with a new version excluding the Libby Road Trail. The first rule of Libby Road Trail is you never talk about Libby Road Trail. What trail? I didn't say anything. Never heard of the Libby-lay Oad-ray Ail-tray.
- Kamal brought in the Outstanding Achievement Award presented to ECC by NHACC at their annual meeting on Nov. 3. He gave a brief report on the awards. ECC represented the Northern Region. Concord received the award for the Central Region. Epping was honored in the South.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 3, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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