

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, January 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Dec. 3 meeting were approved with one correction: the phrase, “or current use change taxes” was removed.
- Financial Report: No money has been expended from the 2019 budget. The carryover deficit from 2018 still reflects money paid to Bella Terra Trail Design for work completed in 2018 and incorporated into the 2019 budget. The Conservation Fund has a balance of \$12,446.00
- Communications, interactions with other town boards: Tim informed the members of the citizen petition to repeal the town zoning ordinance. As of the meeting time, it had been sent to the Planning Board for consideration, but the public hearing had not yet been scheduled.

Water Issues: None

Land Issues: None

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal received the invoice for \$294 for the live animal presentation by the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, scheduled for June. SLNC does not require the funds right away. Members agreed to pay the invoice in May.
- Kamal attended a workshop on Dec. 7, titled “Actions for Wildlife in a Changing Climate.” He reported on the sessions he attended, highlighting in particular one regarding “culverts for flood resiliency and aquatic connectivity.” He also mentioned that he learned of sources for grant funding the town can apply for, to help fund culvert work for greater functionality.
- WAP presentations: After his attendance at the workshop mentioned above, Kamal suggested that ECC schedule presentations on controlled burning to improve scrub oak and pitch pine habitat, and a presentation on climate change as it relates to our home environment.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- The Chair presented the proposed bylaw amendment members approved in December, to make membership and quorum requirements more flexible with a seasonally changing population. This language will be incorporated into the bylaws pending a more complete revision, which has already begun:

Addendum – Article 9.01

Member Appointment

A. The Commission shall consist of five (5) regular members, all appointed by the Select Board. Members shall be residents of the Town of Effingham. The Select Board may appoint alternate members, as well. **(Amended as of Feb 4, 2019)**

- For the bylaw revision, members will review the document in sections, to be considered at subsequent meetings. The first portion consists of Articles 1 – 7 for the Feb. 4 meeting.
- Tim will edit the ECC annual summary for the Town Annual Report, from a synopsis provided by Emelyn.
- Kamal heard from Barbara Richter of NHACC that it is up to the individual towns whether they make their conservation commissions go through annual approval to roll over unspent budget amounts, or approve it once and let it continue without annual review. Thus, Effingham's system does not need to be changed.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 4, 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; Virginia Wrabel(*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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