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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, March 4, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Feb. 4 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: The 2019 budget of \$4,205.00 awaits ratification at town meeting. No difficulties are anticipated, but we assume nothing.
- Prospective member Gina Vetro was unable to attend the meeting due to an unanticipated schedule conflict. The commission looks forward to seeing her at a future meeting.

Water Issues: None

Land Issues:

- Kamal visited the PRCP with Wendy Scribner of UNH Extension, as part of the four-season survey of natural features and wildlife use. Kamal presented a brief report. He and Wendy saw tracks of bobcat, coyote, and rabbit. They examined possibilities for further trail access. Because of the snow and ice, they were able to traverse the wetland on the adjoining ECC property as well as PRCP.
- PRCP interpretive/educational resources: Kamal suggested that ECC prioritize the development and installation of interpretive signage for the PRCP. Wendy Scribner can provide information for detailed, informative signs marking features of interest, mostly plant species. Jack moved and Kamal seconded to move forward with that project.
- Emelyn is almost finished with the new heron painting for the PRCP sign. Jack will then seal it before it is installed after the weather improves.
- Tim mentioned that a lot is for sale by the Elm Street bridge (Map 413, Lot 192). He wondered if it might have conservation and recreational value to the town, because its buildable area is quite small, and it already sees riverbank usage by people fishing downstream from the bridge and fire lane. After discussion, the consensus was that the lot is overpriced and does not offer significant value as a public property at this time.

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal gave an update on the status of the Fish and Game presentation on brook trout, scheduled for April. As of the March 4 meeting, wildlife steward Don Allen is scheduled to present the program on Friday, April 12, at the Effingham Library at 6:30 p.m. He is supposed to firm up the details with Kamal soon. Emelyn will send the information to Tim in time to get it into the calendar of events in local papers.
- Emelyn presented promotional flyer ideas for the Earth Day Poster Contest at Effingham Elementary School. The theme is "Climate Change: What does it mean to you and our Earth?" There was some discussion as to whether this was too complex or apocalyptic for the younger grades. Emelyn will discuss it with the principal and the art faculty.
- The Earth Day roadside cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 27.

- Emelyn will put together a small educational display for the voting and Town meeting on Tuesday, March 12 and Saturday, March 16, at Effingham Elementary School.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- By-Laws update: Jack had a couple of areas of concern in sections of the by-laws that the commission has not reviewed yet in the updating process. Because the town meeting represents a critical point in the membership cycle, and the ECC might be getting at least one new member, he felt that we should address the fact that there is no specifically designated Treasurer position. It is incorporated into the vice-chair duties at this time. He also made the excellent suggestion that ECC should have separate Rules of Procedure as operating instructions independent of the by-laws. This would make them a more flexible document to respond to necessary changes.
- Re Gina Vetro, Kamal reminded members of the formalities of new membership. A new member must attend at least one meeting, and provide a letter of intent to join. Also, a new member should be issued the NHACC handbook.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Monday, April 1, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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