

These minutes are draft until approved

Approved

Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, April 1, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. Guests included Linda Edwards, Blair Folts, Gina Vetro, and a Chihuahua named 456. Or maybe Four Five Six. I didn't ask if it was rendered numerically or alphabetically.

Linda and Blair had come to express concerns about logging on steep slopes, particularly on Champion Hill Road, where the slope clearly exceeds 15 degrees. They had gone to the planning board, who referred them to the ECC. The planning board did tell them that the owner of the property had described the cut as agricultural conversion to pastureland. If you tip a cow at the top of that patch, it's liable to roll a hundred yards.

Kamal recommended filing written complaints.

Harry reported that Jeff Libby, the town forester, had spoken with the owner. The owner had responded that the land was being converted to pasture.

Linda and Blair described runoff and road icing issues that had led to excessive amounts of salt during the winter. They asserted that sediment and salt can make their way easily to Pine River.

Kamal repeated that any citizen can file a complaint with DES. Blair reported that Rebecca Boyden (ZEO) had also said that.

Kamal repeated that the best course would be to file a written complaint and go to the BOS. Linda and Blair said they would follow up with the BOS.

Emelyn said that she would ask for notification of intents to cut.

Gina Vetro introduced herself and explained her interest in land and water conservation. She is a new property owner in Effingham. Emelyn and Kamal explained the purpose and processes of conservation commissions. The commission in general shared their knowledge and experience. Kamal explained the procedure for membership.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the March 4 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: A total of \$13 has been expended from the 2019 budget allocation of \$4,205.

Education and Outreach:

- Wildlife steward Don Allen of Fish and Game will present the program on brook trout that ECC requested as part of the educational component of Taking Action for Wildlife. The subject of the program is "Restoring Native Brook Trout in New Hampshire." It will

be held on Friday, April 12, at the Effingham Public Library, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tim sent press releases to the Carroll County Independent, The Laker, and the Conway Daily Sun. Only the Sun acknowledged receipt. Emelyn placed posters at four locations around town. Kamal requested a short bio of Don Allen for the speaker's introduction. There will be light refreshments.

- Earth Day Roadside Cleanup: The annual roadside litter cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 27. Interested volunteers should meet at the Town Offices between 8 and 9 a.m. for road assignments. Volunteers may go directly to a section if they want, but please let the commission know beforehand to avoid doubling up on one area and missing another. Virginia and Kamal will let the transfer station know about the event. If Bill and Virginia are available, Bill will provide grilling expertise as usual. Otherwise, lunch will be cold cuts and side dishes.
- Earth Day Poster Contest: When Emelyn asked EES Principal Pat Morrissey if the youngest students would understand the contest theme of climate change, she said, "If they don't know, they should know." Posters will be collected on April 19 and judged at the May ECC meeting.
- Kamal received the invoice for the live animal presentation scheduled for Saturday, June 22.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Emelyn requested a mailbox in the meeting room, like other boards and commissions have. It has been ordered and will be installed.
- Kamal ordered a new NHACC handbook. The invoice for \$13 has been submitted.
- Members touched briefly on the update to the by-laws. Jack explained how a separate procedural document becomes more readily edited and revised as a normal commission function, compared to the more constrained process of amending by-laws.
- ECC looks forward to the return of Al Levesque from tropical climes in time for next month's meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, May 6, 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*); Virginia Wrabel(*alt.*). Absent: Al Levesque; Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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