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___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, May 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public present.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the April 1 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: ECC only expended \$13 since last month. Requests have been submitted for reimbursement checks to Virginia Wrabel (\$33.80) for food provided for the presentation on brook trout; \$87.03 to Emelyn Albert for food provided for lunch for the volunteers after the roadside cleanup; another \$56.88 to Emelyn for the book prizes to be awarded to each grade winner in the Earth Day poster contest at Effingham Elementary School; and \$250 to pay for the Ferry Beach Environmental Camp for third grade students at EES this summer.
- Communications, interactions with other town boards: Tim reported on the public hearing held by the planning board on April 11 regarding an application to subdivide Lot 45 on Tax Map 408 into four lots. The present lot is 193 acres, including steep slopes, wetlands, and the sources of several streams that eventually feed into Pine River. The proposed subdivision would have created four lots from the original 193 acres. One would contain the existing residence. The other two, with frontage on Jack Russell Road, would be spec lots. Proposed access to them crosses wetlands. The remainder of the lot would remain intact for now. It has hundreds of feet of frontage on Green Mountain Road closer to Elm Street. The hearing was continued until May 2 for just the lot with the existing residence. The planning board was then going to schedule a site visit to assess conditions on the two proposed lots on Jack Russell Road.

Water Issues:

- Conservation Commission review of Permit by Notification applications has been restored by DES. The PBN is the lowest level of dredge and fill permit. If a project was deemed minimum impact, its review could be expedited by DES, but only if the given town's conservation commission had signed off on it. Without CC approval, the application would go through the standard review, a lengthier process. The power of review had been rescinded by DES, but NHACC efforts got it reinstated.

Education and Outreach:

- The presentation on Brook trout, given by wildlife steward Don Allen on Friday, April 12 at the Effingham Public Library drew an audience of about 20 guests.
- Roadside cleanup: Bad weather kept volunteer numbers down, but the bag count was the second highest ever. About 20 volunteers took road assignments and picked up trash. Of those, 18 attended the lunch afterwards. The count at the transfer station was 189 bags as of May 4. Al pointed out that this made it the best year on the basis of bags per volunteer. After the initial cleanup, a large section of Green Mountain Road had not been cleaned,

due to the scarcity of volunteers on the first rainy Saturday. Emelyn, and Mike Cahalane, rallied a group of six volunteers to complete the remaining section on the following Saturday.

- In response to concerns about the suitability of the Masonic Hall for the June 22 wildlife presentation, the event has been shifted to the Effingham Historical Society building at 1:30 p.m. The EHS building is ADA compliant. It has a capacity of about 40 people, but apparently if a member of the fire department attends that limit can be waived slightly. Kamal will see if Bill Piekut would be willing to provide that service.
- ECC judged the posters created by the students at Effingham Elementary School for the Earth Day Poster Contest. The theme was “Climate change: what does it mean to you and our Earth?” While all of them were imaginative, a few of them were particularly thought-provoking.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- ECC now has a mailbox in the meeting room. Decoder rings are still backordered.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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