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___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, July 1, 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 June 3 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: \$2,446.36 remains of the 2019 budget allocation of \$4,205.00. \$1,000.00 was paid to the Province Lake Association for their Lake Host Program. \$294 was paid to Squam Lakes natural Science Center for the Creatures of the Night program held on June 22. Jack Williams was reimbursed \$23.83 for a duffel bag to carry litter grabbers for roadside cleanup operations.

Water Issues: None

Land Issues:

- On May 10, Emelyn, Jack, Kamal, Harry, and Tim cleaned up fallen limbs and debris, and trimmed out the trails on the LLP and the PRCP. Kamal used his leaf blower to clear the footway on the LLP trails, and remove deep pine needles around the picnic table and kiosk. Harry cut leaning trees and encroaching limbs on the PRCP trail. Jack cut up downed trees at the LLP and provided additional saw support at both sites. Harry hauled the brush pile from the LLP to the Transfer Station. Very little trash was found, but it did include one disposable diaper thrown into the frontage of the LLP. Stay classy, people.
- Members discussed ideas for enhancements at the LLP and PRCP. The plan for the PRCP has included educational materials and signage, so the discussion focused on ideas for a kiosk near the parking area, and individual signs on vegetation of interest. Kamal and Emelyn debated sources and formats for the individual signs, which would have to be weather resistant in exposed locations. Kamal will re-send samples he had distributed earlier this year by email. Em is also researching signs. The discussion will continue at subsequent meetings.

Education and Outreach:

- Creatures of the Night: More than 50 people attended the presentations by the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center on June 22 in conjunction with the Street Fair. Observers reported 56-60 attended. The presenters were described as “engaging and professional.” The program was very popular. The ECC thanks Kamal for his original idea and diligent efforts to bring it to fruition. Members agreed that the ECC should continue to offer presentations like this, and that the combination with the Street Fair should continue. Chair wrote a note of thanks to the Effingham Historical Society for the use of the building. Information and photos that she sent to Theresa Swanick have been posted to the town website.

- Given the success of the summer presentation and the April program on brook trout, ECC plans to continue to offer programs at those particular times, taking advantage of free or affordably priced programs offered by entities such as NH Fish and Game.
- Kamal gave a follow-up report on communications with GMCG regarding their request for financial support for a presentation on vernal pools in 2020. The proposal was for a presentation by Rick van de Poll to students from Effingham Elementary School, at the vernal pool at GMCG's Blue Heron House. Nothing has been scheduled or promised as yet.
- The third graders of EES sent a thank you note to ECC for funding their trip to Ecology Camp. The camp, formerly held at Ferry Beach, had to be moved to a new location after the Ferry Beach camp was sold. The Ecology Camp organizers made a program around more freshwater ecology this year, but did include a trip to Biddeford Pool.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Virginia reported that the jungle is getting thick at the boat ramp. Em said that she would get over there with her trimmer to reclaim the picnic area.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 5, 2019, 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*); Virginia Wrabel(*alt.*). Absent: Al Levesque; Harry Libby; Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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