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\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, August 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the July 1 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: So far this year, \$2,608.00 has been expended from the 2019 budget of \$4,205.00. The payment of \$850.00 has been paid to GMCG for water quality monitoring.
- Long-time member Al Levesque has submitted his resignation to the Board of Selectmen as of Aug. 5. ECC chair read the letter to the members. ECC will sorely miss Al. The commission appreciates his contributions and extends a warm welcome any time he wishes to return.

Random Stuff in No Particular Order: Should Effingham consider having a solar farm ordinance? A company had recently looked into setting up a commercial solar farm on a parcel of land on Plantation Road. They subsequently decided not to pursue it, but renewable energy is a good thing to encourage, so ECC continues to discuss ways in which the town can encourage low impact businesses like this and perhaps enhance the tax base. Rich, delicious tax revenue! And an environmental business! What's not to like? The chair will discuss zoning aspects with the chair of the planning board. Kamal will also investigate any informative and supportive aspects from the state. He cited RSAs 672.1 and 674.17 as areas of his initial investigation.

### Water Issues:

- Chair contacted Cliff Cabral of New England Milfoil about surveying Marist Cove when he does Berry Bay. He reported that he had already surveyed Marist Cove and found some new growth. ECC also needs to arrange for a survey of Ossipee River, particularly in known problem areas like near the Route 153 boat launch. Emelyn also plans to walk the river below the dam after the renovation project closes the cofferdam and blocks the flow on the north side of the island.

### Land Issues:

- Jack will look into getting some aggregate delivered to improve the parking area at PRCP and increase its visibility from the road.
- Tim will try to get contact information for another trail builder for possible additions to the trail in the PRCP.

### Education and Outreach:

- ECC has received two requests to support Lake Host programs. The Province Lake Association has asked ECC to double its \$1,000.00 annual support, to \$2,000.00, citing personnel expenses totaling \$8,500.00. The BOS is receptive to the idea, because lake water quality is a value to the town. Effingham covers 41 percent of the lake watershed.

Meanwhile, Freedom also requested a contribution for their program, citing expenses of \$11,000.00. Chair has suggested that the funds should come from the Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund. It seems appropriate, if there are no legal impediments. Members discussed how much to contribute, and how to allocate it between the PLA and Freedom.

- Tara Schroeder of GMCG had asked earlier this year whether ECC would contribute financially to a future program at the vernal pool at Blue Heron House for students at Effingham Elementary School. ECC had asked for more details. As a follow-up, Kamal asked her about the current status of the project. Tara said that she has applied for a grant.
- Kamal will contact Fish and Game regarding a program for April 2020. The Street Fair next year will be held on June 20, 2020.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Bylaw update: ECC will hold a work session on Monday, Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m. to finish the project.
- ECC has to present its budget request for 2020 to the budget committee on Oct. 15.
- The Lord's Hill Preservation Society will hold its first blueberry festival on Sunday, Aug. 11 from noon to 4 p.m.
- Claudia Lamphier's retirement party will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. ECC will present her with a gift on behalf of all the members.
- Effingham Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and potluck on Friday, Aug. 16.
- Members discussed logging on conservation land, and whether the town could maintain a useful list of conservation easements and deed restrictions to help intercept logging operations that violate easement terms. Consensus was that this would be very difficult or impossible.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 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 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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