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___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, September 3, 2019

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

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Aug. 5 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: \$2,608.64 has been expended from the 2019 budget allocation, leaving a balance of \$1,596.36. There is \$10,979 in the Conservation Fund. The Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund has a balance of \$15,289.00
- Communications, interactions with other town boards: consultation with Mike Cahalane about using money from the Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund to contribute to the Lake Host Program on Province Lake. More discussion below.

Water Issues:

- Lake Host Funding: Members discussed a request from the Province Lake Association to double the town's contribution to the PLA's Lake Host Program. ECC already added \$1,000.00 to its annual budget last year to contribute to this program. The PLA cited increased personnel expenses as a reason to increase funding. Additionally, the town of Freedom has asked if Effingham could contribute to the lake host program on Ossipee Lake. Chair discussed with Mike Cahalane and Claudia Lamphier whether funds could be released from the Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund for these contributions. Initial response has been positive. Chair will ask for a report of expenses from the PLA in support of these funding requests
- New England Milfoil surveyed Marist Cove in August and found enough milfoil to warrant a half-day of hand harvesting. They will also survey the Effingham side of Ossipee River. Chair authorized the harvest and river survey.

Land Issues:

- Chair arranged with Mike Cahalane to have Evans Brothers deliver driveway mix to cover the PRCP parking area. Jack recommended four yards. Mike said that ECC would get the municipal rate. Kamal conveyed a suggestion from Wendy Scribner that the parking area be flared toward the road to make entry and exit easier and safer.
- PRCP kiosk: discussion continued regarding a kiosk at PRCP for informational signage and possibly brochures, as well as a visitor log. Members agreed that something simple like a mailbox could house a visitor log before a kiosk is in place.
- The Preservation Society sent word that they had run out of the Hike and Visit Effingham maps. More will be provided.

Education and Outreach:

- 2020 Street Fair: Members discussed which program by the Center for Wildlife in York Maine to select for next summer's Street Fair. They selected Birds of Prey. Kamal will

maintain contact and arrange for the program as soon as the Center begins taking reservations for 2020.

- April program: Following last April's popular Brook Trout presentation, ECC will bring in another Fish and Game program next April. The topic will be bears.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Members discussed whether to consider drafting a model ordinance regarding solar farms in Effingham. While Theresa Swanick had said that the Planning Board docket is too full for this year, ECC will move forward to be ready with something to present as soon as the PB is ready.
- Members discussed the new Transfer Station ordinance.
- 2020 Budget: Members discussed category requests for next year's budget. Budgets have to be submitted to the town by Oct. 7. ECC is due to appear before the Budget Committee on Oct. 15. The 2020 request will cut the land improvements line from \$1,000 down to \$200, and increase the contribution to GMCG for water testing by \$50.
- With the Bylaw revision complete, Kamal presented a draft of the Procedure and Policy document for members to consider. The Bylaws can be signed at the October ECC meeting. Kamal suggested adding a section at the end for amendments, so that every change will not have to go through a full rewrite and approval process. This will be added to the final version for signing.
- Departing member Al Levesque received a letter of appreciation for his years of service to the ECC. He will be missed. We wish him the best of luck in Florida, with its fungal plagues, giant cockroaches, poisonous snakes, tropical humidity, large, carnivorous reptiles, and other attractions.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 7, 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*) Alternates: Virginia Wrabel (*alt.*). Absent: Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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