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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, October 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Sept. 3 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: ECC has expended \$2,608.00 from the 2019 budget allotment, leaving a balance of \$1,596.00. The Conservation Fund has a balance of \$10,980.00. The Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund has a balance of \$15,290.00.
- Communications, interactions with other town boards: Chair reports that Mike Cahalane (BOS) is still working on getting 4 yards of driveway fill applied to the parking area at PRCP.
- Members signed the official final version of the latest revision of the ECC Bylaws. Chair will get copies made. Chair and Kamal will distribute them.
- 2020 budget request is due to be submitted to the town administrator on Oct. 8. It is presented to the BOS on Oct. 15 and the Budget Committee on Oct. 29.

Water Issues:

- Lake Host funding considerations: After initially requesting some sort of contribution from Effingham to Freedom's milfoil control activities, Ned Kucera of Freedom Conservation Commission said that FCC has already covered their funding needs for 2020. We're not complaining. Meanwhile, Province Lake Association met with the BOS in September and presented their case for increased funding of their Lake Host program. Mike Cahalane suggested that this be incorporated into the ECC budget. This concept led to lengthy discussion among ECC members, several of whom disagreed with that analysis. The consensus among ECC was that the funding should come from the Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund, since it is directly related to milfoil control as a protective measure for property values and important revenue to the town. The charter of the fund might have to be revised, but this is not a difficult matter. Tim moved that the PLA budget line be increased by \$1,000.00 for this year, as per their request, contingent on modifying the mission of the Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund to include prevention as well as remediation. Thereafter, the line item for PLA Lake Host would be removed from ECC's budget and added to the capital reserve fund. ECC remain the agent to expend that fund, but the PLA contribution would not be part of ECC's direct budget. Kamal seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Chair will invite representatives of the PLA to attend the Dec.2 ECC meeting to go over the details of how their Lake Host program works, and what its expenses are.
- Chair contacted Cliff Cabral of New England Milfoil about surveying and harvesting any milfoil in Effingham's portions of Ossipee Lake and Ossipee River. Cliff said he would be doing the survey in the following week.

Land Issues:

- PRCP scheduled to receive 4 yards of driveway fill graded out to improve the surface of the parking area.

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal had intended to go over things that ECC can do regarding climate change. This merges with the ECC project to gather information and formulate a draft solar energy ordinance for the town. Most discussion at the October meeting centered on the solar energy ordinance and general issues related to large-scale power generation in this area. Because the ordinance initially focused on solar farms, that led to investigation of the existing power grid, and its ability to receive commercial amounts of power input. Jack presented a map of transmission lines in the area, showing that no high capacity lines come anywhere near us at this time. But then Harry pointed out that Pine Tree Power in Tamworth has been putting power into the grid for years. Members will continue research. Theresa Swanick said that the Planning Board could be ready to see a draft ordinance by June, 2020.

Other Business and Special Reports: none

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 4, 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*) Absent: Virginia Wrabel(*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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