

These minutes are draft until approved

\_\_\_Approved

\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, January 6, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m. Guests included GMCG Water Quality Coordinator Jill Emerson and GMCG Americorps volunteers Ellie Stoermer and Sarah Goldsmith. Jill presented GMCG'S 2019 water quality monitoring report for Effingham, including a five-year data summary and analysis for the streams that GMCG tests within or assigned to Effingham. One site on South River is just over the state line in Parsonsfield, Maine.

The detailed presentation covered issues with cyanobacteria, conductivity, and some E. Coli reports at some sites.

Among the concerns and questions put forward by ECC members were the suggestion that the South River site should be much closer to Province Lake, or at least more centrally located on the part of South River in Effingham, and that Wilkinson Brook should be tested because of its long, circuitous course through the heart of Effingham to the Pine River.

Ellie and Sarah stayed after the presentation to take notes on a subsequent agenda item of interest to GMCG (Brian Roberts property).

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Dec. 2 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: ECC has expended \$2,858.00 of the 2019 budget allocation of \$4,205.00, leaving \$1,406.00. The Conservation Fund had a balance of \$10,980.00 as of September, 2019. The 2020 budget allocation of \$4,455.00 awaits approval by the voters at Town Meeting.

### Water Issues:

- Lori Dunne's presentation on the PLA Lake Host Program has been postponed to spring. Members agreed that they would like to see a written report to review prior to that.

### Land Issues:

- Members discussed the possible availability of a 57-acre parcel offered by its owner, Brian Roberts, to SPNHF, across Hobbs Road from the trailhead for the Dearborn Trail, already owned by SPNHF. Tom Howe of SPNHF had told Brian that the Society is not interested in the property, but that he would inform ECC and GMCG of Brian's interest in placing the land in conservation. Its conservation value is rated as high.

Roberts has made no attempt to contact ECC or GMCG following SPNHF's decision to decline his offer, so any consideration of the parcel is completely speculative. Roberts had presented the idea indicating that he would ask for a subdivision to cut about six acres from the current property, for his house, and sell the remaining piece for conservation. As far as ECC knows, no application has been made to do the subdivision.

Kamal will handle communications between ECC and Matt Howe of GMCG, as well as asking Tom Howe about more direct contact with Brian Roberts at his winter residence. Members agreed that the ECC cannot move forward on anything without more specific information about what Roberts wants to accomplish.

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal reported on two potential dates for the proposed April presentation on black bears. Members selected Friday, April 10.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Solar Ordinance Draft: Kamal distributed copies of a draft ordinance and some supporting documentation. Discussion will begin at next month's ECC meeting.
- Tim has "volunteered" to write the annual summary of ECC activities for the 2019 Town Report. Emelyn will provide a fact sheet.
- Chuck Fuller of the BOS will give a slide presentation on the town tax rate on Tuesday, Jan 7, at 5 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 3, 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 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

*These minutes are draft until approved*