

These minutes are draft until approved

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___ Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, February 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. after the Select Board vacated the room. Attending was Adam Doiron, a wetland scientist representing Whitaker-Fadden regarding a wetland permit for a proposed driveway to lots to be subdivided from a larger parcel off of Jack Russell Road. He was requesting ECC sign off on expedited consideration of the Minimum Impact Dredge and Fill application for the project. He presented the project plans and answered questions from commission members. ECC initialed the application. It will now be submitted to DES for its review.

Organizational Issues:

- The Jan. 6 meeting minutes were approved.
- Financial Report: The 2020 budget request of \$4,455.00 awaits approval by the voters at the March town meeting. The carry-over of \$1,346.00 from the 2019 budget will be added to the ECC fund.
- Communications, Interactions with other town boards: Tom Hart and John Meisner are vying for the open Select Board seat in this year's town elections.

Water Issues: Topics were pretty dry this month.

Land Issues:

- Brian Roberts property: Kamal reported on his communication with Brian Roberts regarding the property that Roberts is offering for conservation on Hobbs Road across from the Dearborn Trail parking. Roberts earlier sold a large tract to SPNHF to secure the Dearborn Trail access. Because there had been no direct contact between Roberts and ECC, members had wanted to hear from Roberts what his hopes and expectations were, and his asking price. Kamal reported that Roberts wants \$65,000 for what would be about 57 acres after the buildings and existing driveway were subdivided from the existing lot. The piece contains extremely high value wetlands. Its frontage is on a Class VI road. Members discussed the proposal and concluded that the ECC is not in a position to undertake such an acquisition. Kamal will convey this to Brian.

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal reported on the current status of plans for the Birds of Prey program scheduled for Saturday, June 20, in conjunction with the Effingham Preservation Society Street Fair. He will make sure that the Historical Society is still willing to accommodate the event, as they did so successfully last year, and maintain contact with the Center for Wildlife, who are providing the program.
- The Black Bear program, available from NH Fish and Game, is scheduled for Friday, April 10, at the Effingham Public Library, at 6:30 p.m. Kamal will contact Fish and

Game about whether they provide a canned press release, or if ECC has to write one up for distribution to local papers.

- Earth Day Poster Contest: members discussed topics for this year's poster contest for the students at Effingham Elementary School. Kamal suggested something about the benefits of winter snow. Discussion centered on how to put it simply enough to suggest ideas that the children could illustrate. Discussion reached no conclusion. Members will continue to share ideas by email.
- Tim completed the ECC annual summary for the town report.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Solar Ordinance draft: Members discussed the draft ordinance that Kamal has compiled. Further consideration will continue at the March 2 meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, March 2, 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 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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