

These minutes are draft until approved

\_\_\_Approved

\_\_\_Approved with changes.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public. ECC met outdoors, masked and seated separately as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the March 2 meeting were approved
- Financial Report: ECC has expended \$2,900.00 from the 2020 budget allocation of \$4,455.00. Items included \$900.00 to GMCG for water testing and \$2,000.00 to the PLA for the Lake Host Program. There is \$11,000.00 in the Conservation Fund, with \$2,300.00 more expected to roll over from last year's unspent budget.

### Water Issues:

- The BOS asked ECC to examine a recently installed culvert on Molly Philbrick Road in May. Kamal, Emelyn, and Jack made a site visit on May 17 and reported their findings to the BOS. The consensus was that the culvert has been improved significantly over its previous configuration.
- Lori Dunne reported that there was a nesting pair of loons on Province Lake. Another observer reported seeing an egg, but later visits seemed to indicate that the nest had been abandoned without successful reproduction.
- Chair will contact New England Milfoil to arrange this year's survey of the demon weed in Effingham waters.

### Land Issues:

- Gwen English has provided a partial list of conservation easements in town, following up on her earlier offer to compile this information. She is continuing. Kamal gave a brief report on TNC study of wildlife corridors facilitated by conserved land in town.
- Jason Earle sent the chair an email stating that he thinks that there may be old roads of trails in the LLP. Members discussed where these lines might run, given the prevailing wetness of most of the parcel.

### Education and Outreach:

- Because of the COVID-19 virus, the Black Bear presentation by Fish and Game, scheduled for April, had to be canceled. ECC hopes to reschedule for 2021.
- The roadside trash cleanup netted more than 200 bags of rubbish. From this, Steve Regal harvested approximately \$400 worth of aluminum and 350 pounds of glass for a fundraiser for the Historic Town Hall building renovation. In addition to benefiting a worthy cause, it also reduced costs to the town by reducing the tonnage that needed to be transported for recycling. Funny how that works: as municipal waste we pay to get rid of it, but as a fundraiser it earns money. I'm not saying it's not legit, only that it's an

interesting twist. Additional help for roadside cleanup came from volunteers provided by Effingham Elementary School, who had time available due to the COVID-19 school closure. This initiative was led by EES Principal Patty Morrissey.

- Because the Effingham Preservation Society had to cancel their summer street fair, the ECC live animal presentation was also canceled. ECC hopes to bring it back for 2021.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Solar Ordinance draft: Kamal submitted a new Page 1, which will be sent out to members. Members discussed issues of shading of solar installations by structures or trees. Editing and revision will resume at Section 6, Safety. Members will submit their comments to Kamal by email.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 3, outside the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m., weather permitting.

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 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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