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Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, August 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public. ECC met outside the town office building to maintain safe distance and airflow.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the July 6 meeting were approved
- Financial Report: no change since last month. The remaining balance in the 2020 budget allotment is \$1,555.00

Water Issues:

- Chair contacted Cliff Cabral of New England Milfoil regarding milfoil surveys this year. Cliff has surveys scheduled for later this month on Ossipee Lake, Berry Bay, and Marist Cove. They discussed scheduling a survey from the Route 153 bridge in Effingham Falls to the boat ramp below the Route 25 bridge.
- Chair informed members of the lead story last weekend in the Conway Daily Sun, covering Lake Host programs.
- Tim reported on his observations of the Elm Street bridge project and the lack of sediment and debris control there. Kamal pointed out that conservation commissions are specifically charged with oversight of wetlands, which are not a factor on that particular piece of shoreline. Members agreed that it is the state's issue under shoreland protection. Tim had sent an email to DES with some photos. Chair will follow up on Tim's email to the BOS. The engineering report posted on the town website for July 23 mentioned barriers to contain sediment and debris, but unless they are erected and removed every day they don't appear to be in use. Consensus is still that it's a state matter. More debris has hit the shoreline and landed in the water since Tim's initial observation, but it's up to the state as to whether that is important.
- Chair received a thank you note from Lori Dunne for the town's contribution to the PLA's Lake Host program. GMCG also sent a note of thanks for the town contribution to water quality monitoring.

Land Issues:

- Members discussed the possibilities for additional trails in the PRCP, after to the Chair's speculation about whether the western portion of the parcel, near the older conservation lot, might have enough dry land to support all-season use. Consensus was that the lot is too wet. Kamal reported on a site visit snowshoeing with Wendy Scribner. Harry agreed that winter use would be better, if the wetland was frozen and there was sufficient snow.

Education and Outreach: None

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Members discussed further edits to the Small-Scale Solar Siting Ordinance that they have been working on. Jack and Emelyn had raised some concerns via email with the language in remaining sections of the template ordinance Kamal introduced. Kamal and Tim had responded to these concerns in reply emails. Discussion centered on whether the requirements were too elaborate and intrusive for a town as small as Effingham. Ultimately, members agreed that the real work would be done by the Planning Board after ECC submitted the rough ordinance to them, and that concerns could be fine-tuned then. Disputed sections were included as options. As Kamal pointed out, having a fairly comprehensive ordinance on the books does not require immediate and vigorous oversight and enforcement, but it makes it possible if the need arises eventually.
- Members discussed the feasibility of meeting virtually when weather no longer permits meeting outdoors. Because not all the members have reliable internet connections, virtual meetings will not be possible. Other methods will need to be explored.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 8, 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 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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