

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, September 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Aug. 3 meeting were approved
- Financial Report: \$2,900.00 has been expended from the 2020 budget allotment of \$4,455.00, leaving a balance of \$1,555.00

Water Issues:

- Cliff Cabral has completed the survey of Marist Cove and found only a few plants. He plans to survey the Effingham portion of Ossipee River on Sept. 11 or 18, hoping for more water to give his boat more clearance.
- In correspondence with the Chair, Dave Strauss of Jack Russell Road expressed concerns regarding the capacity of a 15-inch culvert on the driveway of a proposed subdivision on the Jack Russell Road frontage of a parcel owned by Whitaker and Fadden. He wondered whether it would be sufficient to handle the volume of spring runoff. ECC had signed off on the application regarding expedited review at DES, but that was based on the completeness of the application, not on the merits of the plans themselves. That judgment is entirely made by DES.

Land Issues:

- PRCP: Chair requested that ECC explore the western area of the PRCP, adjoining a previously acquired piece of ECC conservation land. While the area is almost entirely wetland, there is some upland that could support another trail. Kamal volunteered to join Emelyn on Friday, Sept. 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Education and Outreach:

- Tim produced a press release for the GMCG newsletter, summarizing ECC activities for the year so far, particularly as influenced by Covid-19. Chair proposed that it would make a good basis for the annual summary for the Town Report, properly updated to reflect anything that transpires between now and the end of the year. Kamal also contributed to the integrity of the final product.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Chair submitted the draft Solar Energy Ordinance to Planning Board Chair Theresa Swanick. This is a long-term project, so there has been no feedback yet.
- 2021 Budget: Next year's budget request needs to be submitted by Oct. 2. Members discussed how to manage the funds from this year that were not spent because events were canceled, and what to request for next year with tax revenues impacted by the pandemic. Members agreed to redistribute funds among some categories, and keep the

total request at the same amount as last year, \$4,455.00. Kamal moved to put this request before the budget committee. Harry seconded.

- Members discussed options for meeting during the fall and winter as weather and darkness make outdoor meetings impractical. Kamal and Tim both have family members in high risk categories and don't want to meet indoors in person. Jack, Emelyn, and Harry are willing to meet, masked and distanced, inside. Harry is unable to participate in virtual meetings due to lack of broadband access. ECC will kick the can as far as October for one more outdoor meeting. After that the quorum may be three.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 5, outside the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:00 p.m. Note the earlier start time, due to the advance of darkness and the increased chance of frosty weather.

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 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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