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Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, October 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m. This was 14 minutes earlier than the start time established in the minutes of September 8, so Tim was technically early, just not as early as everyone else. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Sept. 8 meeting were approved
- Financial Report: No changes from September. There have been no expenditures.

Water Issues:

- Cliff Cabral continues to wait for more water in the Ossipee River to conduct the milfoil survey from his boat. He may attempt with an inflatable if nothing provides sufficient depth for his motor boat. Is “whatever floats his boat” too much of an easy gag?
- Chair read an excerpt from the Province Lake Association end of summer report: “Our Lake Host program was very successful this summer. Many thanks to our inspectors who did an excellent job. Our team had four inspectors this year (vs three last year) and we had a longer season with almost 90 more hours of inspection time at the Towle Farm Boat Ramp. We had 693 inspections this year (vs 559 in 2019). No invasive species were found and with no invasives reported by the Weed Watch Team, Province Lake remains invasive free. The cost of our Lake Host program, which your membership supports, was ~\$9,000.”
- Kamal reported on the content of photos accompanying the report, that not all members had been able to open.
- The PLA also reported a very successful beach cleanup in September.
- Emelyn reported that GMCG spends \$10,855 on Effingham’s portion of their water quality monitoring program.

Land Issues:

- PRCP: Chair reported on reconnaissance in the western area of the Pine River Cherubini Preserve in September with Kamal. The terrain is too wet to support a trail, but they did find a large tree blown down on the existing trail. An unknown benefactor had already cut up other downed trees on the logging road. Sections were placed along the trail as improvised benches. The chair checked with the BOS as to whether the log sections presented a liability hazard, and was told that they were an acceptable feature on the lot. The team also noted that the brush has grown up at the river bank, obscuring the view. Emelyn and Jack went back later to reopen the view. Members discussed other possibilities for additional trail sections off of the main line. Tim reported that Andrew Lester may be available again.

- LLP: Jack, Emelyn's neighbor Ralph Goodreau, and Emelyn, cleared out tree damage in the Larry Leavitt Preserve. Without prior arrangement, Harry Libby and Sue Willard took the brush away in three large loads in a pickup truck. The commission offers its thanks.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- ECC 2021 Budget: Budget request was submitted to the BOS on Oct. 2. Chair discussed it with Mike Cahalane, who said that ECC did not have to have a representative at the BOS meeting on Oct. 13 because of the level funding. He speculated that the Budget Committee might reduce it by \$500 when they discuss it on Oct. 27. ECC representatives would need to be in the parking lot of the town offices at 7:45 p.m. on that date.
- Members discussed how to conduct meetings for the next few months of cold and darkness. Emelyn proposed a format of group emails as a way to meet remotely without requiring that members have the connection speeds and other equipment to use a meeting app like Zoom.
- Kamal put forward the idea that the town might want to invest in a large-capacity chipper as a preferable way to dispose of brush at the transfer station. Routinely, brush is burned, which produces a variety of pollutants, and even that is currently suspended due to the fire danger from the drought. Members discussed the costs and the likelihood of such a major expenditure at a time when tax rates and revenues are already problematic.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Nov 2, in a format to be determined, at a time to be specified.

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 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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