

These minutes are draft until approved

\_\_\_Approved

\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, November 2, 2020

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

**Organizational Issues:** In an attempt to observe some safety measures during the Covid-19 pandemic, ECC meetings are being held in the Historical Society building. The arrangement is far from perfect, and full guidelines for public attendance are not in place. But it's a somewhat large room, and if commission members keep the agenda short and discussion to a minimum we might manage to get through the cold months without anyone getting sick.

- The minutes of the Oct. 5 meeting were approved.
- **Financial Report:** NHACC dues of \$250 were paid, leaving \$1,155.00 from the 2020 budget allotment. The balance reflects money not spent on events that were cancelled this spring and summer due to Covid-19. The savings account has a balance of \$10,982.00. The Invasive Plant fund has \$12,949.00.

### Water Issues:

- New England Milfoil conducted its survey of Effingham waters on Oct. 26. Cliff Cabral reported on Nov. 2 that Marist Cove and the river "look better than I've ever seen it." The entire harvest was only 10 gallons, all single, isolated plants. The total bill for survey and removal came to \$1,153.00.
- As of the November ECC meeting, construction of the new dam at the outlet of Ossipee Lake/origin of Ossipee River was nearly complete. The old dam still had to be removed and reinforcing rock brought in to strengthen the new dam installation. An official opening had not been announced.

### Land Issues:

- Kamal and Em met with Andrew Lester on Oct. 16 at the PRCP to survey it for additional trail possibilities. Andrew was very enthusiastic about the potential for loops that would increase access to various habitats within the preserve. He suggested installing a trail counter to track usage, which could be helpful in securing grants. He also provided names of organizations that furnish such grants. Regarding the slippery wooden bridges, he recommended some anti-slip decking strips. He was going to request some samples that he could show to the commission. He is also working on trail designs for the areas identified in the Oct. 16 reconnaissance.

### Education and Outreach:

- The Earth Day Poster Contest lives! ECC Chair contacted Patti Morrissey, EES Principal, about sponsoring a poster contest this month with the same theme as selected for the spring edition which was canceled when school went virtual. The theme is rain and snow. Going into fall, emphasis is more likely on snow. Posters should be available for pickup

around Nov. 20. They would be judged at the next ECC meeting in December. Arrangements will be made to get the prizes to the winners.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- The Budget Committee approved the ECC 2021 budget request on Oct. 27 after reducing it by \$150. The submitted request was a level-funded \$4,455.00. The amended amount is \$4,305.00.
- Effingham Historical Society requested a donation from ECC rather than a rental payment for use of the space for meetings during the months when the commission is unable to meet outdoors. Members discussed an appropriate amount and decided to wait until next month to see if ECC can get a close idea of what the meeting costs actually are.
- Theresa Swanick posted the ECC winter meeting location on the town website front page and the ECC page.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 7, at the Effingham Historical Society, Corner Road, at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Emelyn Albert (*Chair*); Harry Libby; Tim White (*Recording Secretary*); Jack Williams (*Vice Chair/Treasurer*) Absent: Kamal Nath; Virginia Wrabel(*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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