

These minutes are draft until approved

\_\_\_Approved

\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, December 7, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. Diane Jarecki, new town resident and prospective ECC member, attended

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the November 2 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: A balance of \$1,093.00 remains from the 2020 budget allotment of \$4,300. The savings account has \$10,982.00, awaiting \$2,346 in current use change taxes and carry over from 2019. The Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund has a balance of \$14,000.00

### Water Issues:

- Chair presented a report on milfoil control measures. She relayed that Cliff Cabral had said, "As you know, we surveyed and harvested Marist Cove and the river. Everything looks better than I've ever seen it! In total, we pulled somewhere around 10 gallons of plants from four locations, one being Marist Cove; the remaining three from the river. Most of the plants were singles; we found no major growth areas." Total cost for 2020 was \$1,153.60. For preceding years: 2019, \$2,340.00; 2018, \$1,610.00; 2017, \$2,780.00. Because Diane was unfamiliar with the milfoil problem, Jack and Emelyn presented an overview on the plant's life cycle, habits, and the negative effects it can have on the ecosystem and economy.
- Culverts: Mike Cahalane has asked ECC to help identify more town culverts in need of repair or upgrading. Kamal submitted his thoughts on priority culverts from the 2006 survey. Some have been addressed as part of ongoing road repair and improvements. Members will look for more in later spring 2021 when the roadsides should be clear of snow
- Dave Strauss of Jack Russell Road asked the ECC chair to sit in on a Zoom meeting with the Planning Board regarding the Whitaker-Fadden subdivision on Jack Russell Road. ECC had earlier signed off on expedited review of a driveway application when Whitaker-Fadden's wetland scientist presented the plans at the ECC meeting in February. Given that it was winter and that there would have been no way to schedule a meaningful site walk within the 30-day window in which the permit goes to DES anyway, the commission initialed the plan to be considered by the regulatory authorities. Since then, issues have come to light regarding the project and the proposal. The developers have several permit requests before the Planning Board. Further input may be requested from ECC, but ECC has no regulatory or enforcement powers.

### Land Issues:

- Chair has not heard from Andrew Lester regarding trail building on PRCP and elsewhere. No action is expected before spring 2021.

Education and Outreach:

- Members judged the EES Earth Day Poster Contest entries. This year's theme was "Rain and Snow" How does it help our Earth?" The contest had been delayed by the school shutdown in the spring due to Covid-19. Emelyn will report the winners to the school administration and return all entries. Prizes will be obtained and distributed.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, January 4, 2021, at the Effingham Historical Society building, Corner Road at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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