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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, January 4, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. Diane and Steve Jarecki, prospective members, were guests.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Dec. 7 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: After expenditures totaling \$3,211.05, the remaining balance from the 2020 budget allocation of \$4,305.00 is \$1,093.95. This rolls into the conservation fund. The conservation fund balance stood at \$10,982.87 as of June, 2020. If you can maintain a balance of nearly \$11,000.00, you can earn 27 cents interest! That's how we teach thrift to kids! See full treasurer's financial report for details.
- The invasive plant fund balance was \$14,136.23 after this year's expenditures for the minor harvest that followed New England Milfoil's survey of town waters in the Ossipee Lake system and along the Ossipee River.

Water Issues:

- Mike Cahalane of the BOS reiterated his call for ten more culvert to be prioritized for repair and upgrading in the coming year. Kamal will select culverts for study and work, including GPS coordinates, since culverts don't have home addresses.

Land Issues:

- As reported in December, the BOS reinstated the \$150.00 that the budget committee had trimmed from the ECC 2021 budget request. Going further, he is suggesting to the budget committee that the ECC allocation for 2021 include an additional \$1,000.00 for land projects. Public comment on that would be held in mid-January.
- No word from Andrew Lester on trail work in the PRCP. Basically the agenda item just keeps it on top of the pile until spring.

Education and Outreach:

- April Earth Day roadside cleanup: Looking ahead, members discussed last year's cleanup, which was significantly altered by the Covid-19 pandemic. From a one-day event, it evolved into a multi-day affair that actually drew more participation than usual because students and adults associated with Effingham Elementary School were able to join in, and the BOS took on most of the transportation of full trash bags to the Transfer Station. Chair will contact the BOS and EES about the format for this year, as pandemic precautions are still in effect. More on this later, because a lot can happen between now and April to change any plans made too early.
- Chair proposed that we look in to any offerings that Fish and Game might have for Zoom presentations to take the place of our in-person programs that ECC had been trying to

establish as spring events. Last year's program on black bears had to be canceled due to Covid-19.

- Chair also proposed a presentation on geocaching, by local enthusiast Johanna Vienneau. There are multiple existing caches in the area already.
- The Earth science books provided as prizes for the "Earth Day" poster contest finally held in December were delivered to the school. Emelyn also photographed the winning posters, which were posted to the ECC section of the town website.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Jack has furnished a report on 2020 ECC expenses to the town at their request. Tim is compiling the 2020 annual summary to be included in the town report.
- Members had discussed what would be an appropriate amount to give to the Effingham Historical Society for the use of their meeting room during the winter. ECC will donate \$120.00 to EHS. The motion was put forward by Harry and seconded by Jack. Passed unanimously.
- Outdoor meetings will probably resume in May.
- Members interviewed Diane and Steve Jarecki regarding potential membership in ECC. Diane is interested in full membership. Steve is willing to serve as an alternate. Jack moved and Harry seconded to accept the new member and alternate. Passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Feb.1, at the Effingham Historical Society, Old Pound 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 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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