

These minutes are draft until approved

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\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, February 1, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Jan. 4 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Jack reported that the Conservation Fund balance is \$10,982.00. The Invasive Plant Fund balance is \$14,136.00. The 2021 budget request of \$4,455.00 awaits approval by the voters at Town Meeting. The residual budget amount from 2020 of \$1,093.95 appeared to have been credited to the ECC fund, but the residual \$1,346.00 from 2019 has not been.
- Diane Jarecki was sworn in as a full member of ECC on Jan. 14. We welcome her and Steve Jarecki to ECC!

### Water Issues:

- Karen Payne contacted the Chair re: logging across Drake Road from her home. Her concern was logging in the marshland abutting Wilkinson Brook. Town Forester Jeff Libby talked with the logger, who said he was not going to log in the marshland because there are no trees there. Kamal and Chair received permission from Lucas Saucier to enter his property to access Lot 19 which is an ECC property that spans both sides of the Wilkinson Brook and found no trees in the marshland. Karen wanted to save the trees that abut the marshland, but there is no present regulation to address this situation. Kamal suggested ECC could pursue the designated Prime Wetlands for the 11 high value wetlands in Effingham which could protect them under RSA 482-A:11 IV, which states, “no activity shall take place in or within 100 feet of a *prime wetland* without a permit or waiver from the Department.” Members discussed the potential benefits and pitfalls of prime wetland designation in general terms, and agreed to put the matter to extended study. Any such designation would have to be approved by a vote at a town meeting.
- Jill Emerson of GMCG provided the water quality monitoring data for 2020 from the six sampling sites in Effingham. She will send her findings on long term trends in the watershed in the next month or so.
- Kamal will choose and provide GPS coordinates for the next batch of culverts to be upgraded from the list compiled in the culvert survey, in response to Mike Cahalane’s request for ECC’s help in prioritizing needed repairs.

### Land Issues:

- ECC has not made contact with Andrew Lester yet regarding further trail work. The matter is relatively dormant until spring.

### Education and Outreach:

- Kamal received an email from Fish and Game wildlife steward Don Allen about Zoom presentations to take the place of the live talks like the one Don presented on brook trout in April of 2019. Members agreed to try to arrange a Zoom presentation on black bears to replace the one that we had to cancel last spring as the pandemic was ramping up.
- Members gave very preliminary consideration to the planning and format for this year's spring roadside litter cleanup. Last year's event turned out to be a great improvisational success as the pandemic closed schools and made the usual format impossible. Members will consider ways to improve this year's cleanup based on last year's lessons. Ideas include making the cleanup a month-long event, and enlisting the BOS to collect the bags of rubbish as they did last year.
- Geocaching: Emelyn will follow up with Johanna Vienneau about establishing caches in the LLP and PRCP. Geocaching would be a low-impact way to add to the outdoor attractions in Effingham.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, March 1, 2021, at the Effingham Historical Society, Old Pound Road, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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