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___Approved
___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, March 1, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. Anne Foley, Dave Strauss, and Gordon Williams attended, to express concerns about a proposed subdivision on Jack Russell Road. Foley and Strauss are abutters. Williams is Foley's brother, who provided supporting information about the normal volume of ground and surface water that passes through the Foley property.

Abutter concerns center on the proposed driveway to access two new building lots to be subdivided from Map 408 Lot 45, facing Jack Russell Road. The combination of a documented wetland and steep slopes mean that any impact on water flow, such as filling for a driveway and directing water through a culvert, could set up a damaging reduction of flow, increased erosion due to the velocity of runoff through the culvert, or possible damming and sudden release of a large volume of water in the event that the culvert is plugged by debris.

Anne Foley provided a report on her family's observations of the water flow through their property. It summarized direct observations across decades on a property that her family has occupied since the 19th Century.

ECC also reviewed a report by HEB Engineers citing deficiencies in the proposed plan drawn up by the project engineer for Whitaker and Fadden.

Abutters contend that the proposed plan does not meet the standards for a Special Use Permit, because alternatives exist. The undivided property has frontage on Green Mountain Road that could provide access to the other side of the proposed lots. The developers could also span the wetlands with a bridge rather than fill and a culvert, which would eliminate nearly all harmful effects on the wetland.

ECC has recommended that the application be reviewed further with these concerns addressed. ECC did engage Ilex Wetlands Consultants to review materials provided by the Panning Board and to view the site. This report is being forwarded to the Planning Board along with all other materials collected on the case.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Feb. 1 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: No change from February.

Water Issues:

- Members discussed the report from Ilex Wetlands Consultants. See above.
- Kamal sent a list of culverts for the Chair to forward to the BOS in response to Mike Cahalane's request for help prioritizing upgrades.

Land Issues:

- Still waiting to activate communications with Andrew Lester regarding further trail construction.

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal will handle arrangements with Wildlife Steward Don Allen of NH Fish and Game to try to set up a Zoom presentation on black bears for either April 9 or April 16. If it can be scheduled, Diane has volunteered to host the meeting.
- The theme for the Earth Day poster contest at Effingham Elementary is Bee a Friend to Bees – What do bees do and why are they good for the Earth? Emelyn has produced a flyer to promote it.
- Effingham Roadside cleanup: Ordinarily scheduled for the Saturday after Earth Day (Usually the last Saturday in April), the 2020 cleanup was announced in early April and lasted for the remainder of the month with far more volunteer participation than usual, because of the school shutdown and other schedule disruptions caused by Covid-19. With some of the same conditions still having an effect, ECC is considering how to expand the cleanup again this year. After discussing whether to try to make it the entire month, Diane suggested just the last two weeks, when the weather might be milder and the roadsides are more likely to be clear of snow. Whatever the format, chair will contact the BOS to see if they will be willing to collect the full trash bags from the roadside, the way they did last year.
- Geocaching: While plans are not formalized for caches in the LLP and PRCP, Emelyn mentioned it to Chris Holbrook in the Selectmen's Office. Chris said that she and her husband had been geocaching for years, and that she had a cache in the PRCP. She offered her assistance in setting up caches and would list them on her geocaching website.

Other Business and Special Reports: None

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 5, 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 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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