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___Approved
___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, April 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. Selectman Michael Cahalane attended. He made a presentation about culvert replacement and enhancement on Pine River Road that requires ECC's permission to encroach on a conservation lot. DES permitted the use of a 5-foot culvert with three 24-inch relief culverts in lieu of a more expensive and elaborate box culvert for the Peavey Brook crossing. The relief culverts will require riprap for erosion control, which will extend into the conservation lot. After that was discussed and approved, he reported on other infrastructure issues that have varying degrees of conservation impact. He also described funding mechanisms he has been able to enact to mitigate the cost to the town for lasting improvements. Mike also confirmed that ECC can use the meeting room at the town offices for the May meeting and henceforth.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the March 1 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Jack reported that payment was issued to Ilex Wetlands Consultants for \$390 for the review of the Whitaker-Fadden application for a Special Use Permit. It will be drawn against the 2021 budget, which remains to be voted on at Town Meeting in May. That budget request is \$5,455.00. The ECC fund balance is \$10,982.00. The Invasive Aquatic Plant Fund balance is \$14,444.00.
- Interactions with other town boards: ECC submitted its review of the Whitaker-Fadden Special Use Permit application to the Planning Board, with supporting documentation and testimony from abutters and Ilex Wetlands Consultants.

Water Issues: See above re: wetland fill on Whitaker-Fadden subdivision and culvert enhancement on Pine River Road.

Land Issues: None

Education and Outreach:

- GMCG has agreed to partner with ECC to put on the Zoom presentation about Black Bears, by Don Allen of NH Fish and Game, on Friday, April 16, at 7 p.m. Hopefully the publicity on social media and flyers includes the day of the week, because event announcements should always include the day of the week, even though this appears to be going out of fashion. People who work generally key on day of the week first and date second when determining whether they can attend something or not. Flyers are posted at the transfer station, the Post office, and the town offices.
- The roadside trash cleanup has been scheduled for Saturday, April 17 through Saturday, May 1. The BOS has agreed to pick up the blue bags when volunteers contact the town offices. Bags and gloves are only available from the transfer station this year. A volunteer

picnic will be held on Saturday, April 24, at the town offices parking lot. Rain date for that is May 1. Details are still being worked out regarding the grillmeister.

- Effingham Elementary School will participate in the trash cleanup, but they haven't finalized their exact plan yet.
- Speaking of EES, the Earth Day Poster Contest theme was delivered to the school. Posters will be ready for judging at the May 3 ECC meeting.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Diane put forward the idea that the town might consider switching to LED street lighting. According to the town report last year, the town spent \$5,739.00 on street lighting. This number was not broken out, so we don't know how much was electricity, and how much was for the hardware itself, and maintenance or repair. Members discussed the proposal, which seems more fiscal than environmental, even though the lower energy consumption of LEDs is more than just a monetary benefit. Diane will get more information for further discussion.
- Members discussed a proposal to sell composting bins and decided that it did not seem to offer a benefit to the town and ECC relative to the cost of the bins.

Old Business: New category!

- No word from Andrew Lester yet regarding trail work.
- ECC relayed the culvert list to the BOS from Kamal for priority consideration.
- Geocaching: Chris Holbrook has now left town. There has been no follow-up as yet regarding existing and proposed caches on ECC properties (PRCP and LLP).

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, May 3, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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