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___ Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, May 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. John and Lisa Sullivan of Bonnyman Road, Wakefield, attended as guests. John Sullivan reported that he is considering the purchase of Tax Map 417, Lot 95, a 42-acre parcel on Granite Road. The Sullivans were interested in any restrictions or other issues on the lot that might not have appeared in their deed research. Harry was able to give them a lot of information about the property. As of this meeting they remained very enthusiastic about acquiring it as open space for the enjoyment of their extended family.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the April, 2021 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Jack reported that ECC has expended \$734.00 against the 2021 budget allocation yet to be approved by the voters at the town meeting deliberative session scheduled for Saturday, May 15. He also reported on the ongoing process of reconciling the books for the conservation fund, to track down unexpended budget revenues that should have been credited from previous years. The current balance shows \$10,982.00. The Invasive Plant fund shows a balance of \$14,444.00 pending monies expected to be approved by the voters at Town Meeting.

Water Issues: None

Education and Outreach:

- The Black Bear presentation by Don Allen of Fish and Game was well received, drawing 36 viewers at its high point. Including the question and answer period, it lasted for an hour and 45 minutes. Don presented many interesting facts about black bears, including that they need to consume 80,000 calories a day. Makes you wonder why you don't see more of them in line at ice cream stands. Don said he would be happy to round out the trifecta of presentations by providing the one on bobcats also in the Fish and Game rotation.
- Earth Day Roadside Cleanup: Emelyn summed up this year's results as "dismal." Official bag count stood at 67 bags as of this meeting. Tim reported seeing some uncollected bags that may increase the count. Diane and Steve reported that they did not submit blue bags to the transfer station because they separated the rubbish and recyclables and turned them in as normal elements of the waste stream. Even so, attendance seemed quite light, with only 3 people at the lunch on April 24. The low bag count included a day of collecting by the Effingham Elementary School grades 4, 5, and 6 on April 22. Members discussed possible contributing factors to the poor returns, and compared format ideas for next year and going forward. Kamal liked the multi-day format. Emelyn and Jack strongly felt that one day makes it easier for participants to schedule. It also provides a very specific focal point for the event, while anyone interested in cleanup in general would still be free to get the bags and other equipment to clean up a section of road at any time. Members also discussed the distinction between

litter and trash, clarifying that the Earth Day cleanup and KELF (Keep Effingham Litter-Free) efforts were designed around clearing mostly small items falling within 20 feet or less of the road edge – within the public right-of-way. KELF doesn't address the larger problem of illegal dumping of furniture and appliances, construction debris, and other unfortunate macrotrash left by self-centered slobs on land that is not their own.

- Earth Day Poster Contest: ECC once again provided the first life lesson in the harshness of art criticism and the poor odds of success in commercial and promotional art for the students at Effingham Elementary School, by selecting one winner per grade in the annual environmentally-themed poster contest. This year's theme, Be a Friend to Bees, attracted a swarm of creative ideas. They were duly honed to one per class. Prizes will be distributed to the lucky winners, while the other participants are on their own to arrange showings at minor galleries or on the traveling art show circuit as best they can. In a spot of sweet luck, EES Principal Patti Morrissey requested that the theme for next year be Solar Energy, since the school now has an impressive solar farm behind the buildings. That's one less thing to scratch our heads over during the winter.

Land Issues:

- Emelyn reported that the LLP needs some cleanup. ECC will hold a work day there on Monday, May 17, at 10 a.m. Thanks as always to Harry for chainsaw work and to Harry and Sue Libby for hauling away debris.
- PRCP: Emelyn reported that she had been contacted by Audrey Frazier to see if ECC could provide an opportunity for Mike Russell to fulfill a community service obligation by putting in three hours of work clearing trail obstructions in the PRCP. Emelyn will have to verify the work and the time expended to sign off.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- LED street lighting: Diane reported that her contact at Affinity LED, a company working with Ossipee on converting all of their street lighting to energy efficient LED units said that Ossipee is moving ahead, so Effingham needs to make a decision soon in order to take advantage of the nearby project to perhaps reduce costs to our town for implementing similar economically and environmentally better public lighting. Diane had previously reported that the town report stated that Effingham had spent \$5,739 on outdoor lighting last year. The BOS had apparently not responded as yet to communication regarding this opportunity. Kamal agreed to compose and send a follow-up email to try to bring the issue closer to the top of the agenda.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 7, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim White, Recording Secretary

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