

These minutes are draft until approved

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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, July 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the June 7 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: \$734 has been expended from the 2021 budget allotment, leaving \$4,700. Pending expenditures include the support payment for GMCG water quality monitoring and the funding for the PLA Lake Host Program.

Water Issues:

- Tim reported on an ongoing process at the ZBA regarding an application to re-establish the gas station at the former Boyle's Family Market on Route 25 (Tax Map 401, Lot 5). The original gas pumps and tanks had been removed in 2015 when more stringent standards went into effect and all gas stations in the state were required to comply or discontinue fuel sales. Because that use had been discontinued for more than two years, it is considered abandoned, and new applications can be held to all current standards in the latest revision of the town zoning ordinance. The ZBA initially approved a Special Exception to resume gas station operations with all new tanks and dispensers installed to the latest specifications from the state DES and EPA. However, during site plan review, the property was found to be in the Groundwater Protection Overlay District, instituted to protect particularly vulnerable areas of the Ossipee Aquifer, a resource on which many towns in New Hampshire and Maine rely for drinking water. This led the applicant to go back to the ZBA to ask for a variance from Article 22, Section 2207 of the Effingham Zoning Ordinance, which specifically prohibits gas stations in that district. The ZBA continued the hearing from June 29 with public comment still open. As of this meeting, the hearing was continued to Thursday, June 8, at the town offices at 7 p.m.
- Audrey Frazier informed ECC that DES had authorized an emergency permit to complete work on the failing Bailey Road culvert. As of this meeting, work was required to be completed by July 30.

Land Issues:

- Pursuant to ECC's request for gravel to fill in at the edge of the deteriorating pavement apron at the LLP parking area, the BOS had a load of clean fill delivered in June. It was larger and of finer consistency than expected, but a work crew including Emelyn, Diane, Steve, and Jack spread it using hand tools. They were unable to tamp it down, so ECC requested aid from the town to pack it firmly. Emelyn reports that they did a good job.

Education and Outreach:

- Jack delivered 50 more Effingham Hike and Visit maps to the Transfer Station/chamber of commerce. The maps have proven to be very popular.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Kamal and Emelyn communicated with Chuck Fuller to discuss the town's plans to control Japanese Knotweed at the Transfer Station.
- Members discussed inviting Catherine DuFault of the Carroll County Conservation District to attend a future meeting and discuss CCCD's role in support of environmental issues and ECC.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, August 2, 2021, 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*). Absent: Steve Jarecki(*alt.*); Virginia Wrabel(*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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