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___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, September 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Aug. 2, 2021 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Jack reported that \$1,771.00 remains if the 2021 budget allotment of \$5,455.00. There were no expenditures in August. The ECC fund (savings account) balance is \$13,574.00. The invasive plant fund (milfoil) balance is \$15,400.00.

Water Issues:

- New England Milfoil will be surveying Effingham waters in the Ossipee Lake system and in the Ossipee River some time in September, in conjunction with surveys for neighboring towns.

Land Issues:

- Diane, Steve, Emelyn, and Jack removed a large amount of invasive buckthorn from the PRCP in August. They cut three “mother” trees (as in big mother trees?) and pulled hundreds of seedlings. They cut and bagged all pieces. Jack took the bushes to the transfer station. Big thanks to Diane, Steve, Em, and Jack for their energetic work.
- Andrew Lester will begin work on the new sections of trail in the PRCP on Wednesday.

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal reported on the numerous options for a spring program next April. From that list, members narrowed their choice to a program on New Hampshire’s Wild History, from the UNH Extension’s Speaking for Wildlife series. Target date is sometime in the first three weeks of April, 2022.
- Carroll County Conservation District has scheduled a Legislative Tour of Sherman Farm for Friday, Sept. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. Free ice cream!
- UNH Extension is holding a Bio Blitz during September. Participants are asked to download the iNaturalist app to their devices and look for plants, insects, animals, fungi, on public lands. The data is very helpful to UNH Extension in assessing natural resources in the state.
- NHACC announced a 50th anniversary celebration at Bear Brook State Park, featuring storyteller Rebecca Rule. My meeting notes have it on Saturday, Sept. 11, but NHACC website listed it as Thursday, Sept. 9.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- The Planning Board scheduled a public meeting to review the application by Meena LLC for site plan review on their proposed changes, including a new installation of fuel pumps and storage tanks, at the site of the former Boyle’s Market. This would reinstate fuel sales

that were discontinued by Boyle's in 2015, when they did not opt to update the system to meet more stringent new requirements. They instead took a grant that was available to businesses to have the tanks and dispensers removed completely at no cost to their business. If the application is deemed complete, the hearing would begin. Meanwhile an application has been made to the ZBA for a rehearing on the case that granted a variance to Meena to proceed. The variance provided relief from the provisions of Article 22 of the Effingham Zoning Ordinance, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, which lists gas stations as a prohibited use. The application for rehearing contends that the ZBA erred in granting the variance. The ZBA meeting to review that application will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m. As a ZBA member, Tim reported on the conflicting interpretations that support contrasting views of a "correct" outcome in the case.

- 2022 Budget: Members discussed the 202 budget request, including issues related to the Province Lake Association's request for and increase in their funding from Effingham, from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00. In previous discussions, members have objected to including the PLA Lake Host Program expenditure in the ECC budget. Jack made a motion, seconded by Diane, that a resolution to fund the PLA Lake Host Program should be funded directly by the town as a separate warrant article, voted by the town and funded independently of the ECC budget. Motion passed unanimously. ECC also voted to add \$50.00 to the line item for GMCG water quality testing for next year, bringing the total to \$1,000.00 for 2022. Members voted to have separate line items for land acquisition and land improvement, with \$1,000.00 in the acquisition line and increasing the land improvement line from \$200.00 to \$500.00. Land acquisition funds would be kept in a separated account from other operating expenses and general savings.
- Old business: Diane will check on the status of the suggestion that the BOS consider converting town street lighting to LED and report for next month's meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 4, 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*) Alternates: Steve Jarecki (*alt.*).
Absent: Virginia Wrabel (*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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