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\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, October 4, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. There were no guest or members of the public.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Sept. 6, 2021 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: \$3,933 has been expended from the 2021 budget allotment of \$5,455, leaving \$1,521. The ECC fund balance is \$13,574. The invasive plant (milfoil) fund balance is unchanged, because no expenditures have been made on this year's survey and potential harvests that might be required.

Water Issues: None

### Land Issues:

- There had been no official report from Andrew Lester/Bella Terra Trail Design regarding progress on the new trails in the PRCP. Tim reported that Andrew had told him during the weekend that at least some of the corridor had been cut. Kamal reported that he had been unable to find any evidence of trail work on Friday, Oct. 1.

### Education and Outreach:

- Kamal reported on his initial inquiries about the presentation on New Hampshire's Wild History, available from UNH Extension, which the ECC hopes to host next April. Details will be established in January or February next year.
- CCCD held their Legislative Tour at Sherman Farm in East Conway on Friday, Sept. 24. Emelyn and Diane attended. Blair Folts received a Legacy Award, presented to her by Peter Pohl.
- Emelyn and Jack participated in the UNH Extension's Bio Blitz on Wednesday, Sept. 22. Behind the Transfer Station they found a fungus called lunar jelly, some invasive bittersweet, and mushrooms. They also surveyed conservation properties on Wedgewood Road, Townhouse Road across from Libby Road, and at the end of Lakeshore Road on Province Lake. They reported that there was little of interest to photograph, and cited the odd time of year for finding much in the way of active biology. They were unable to reach the black gum trees because of wet conditions.

### Other Business and Special Reports:

- Following the ZBA's rejection on Sept. 28 of the application for a rehearing on the Meena LLC variance to put gas pumps in at the former Boyle's Market, the application for site plan review at the planning board was apparently rejected as incomplete. The OLA, which was a party to the application for rehearing, requested that the ECC let Corey Lane or Tim Otterbach address ECC regarding what's at stake if the station is allowed to proceed. Tim White, as a member of the ZBA, reported on the rehearing

process, and how the application for rehearing failed to meet the necessary criteria. He also summarized the deliberation process that the ZBA went through to reach their difficult and exhaustively considered decision to approve the variance. ECC had already stated earlier that the proposed gas station fell outside of their statutorily defined responsibilities. In the case of the rehearing, it was felt that the situation still fell outside of statutes, and that it would create an impression of bickering and infighting in town government that would not be helpful to anyone.

- 2022 Budget: Chair delivered the 2022 budget request to the town offices, and will meet with the BOS on Tuesday, Oct. 12, and the Budget Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 26. One key element had been to suggest that the PLA Lake Host Program funds should be moved from the ECC budget to a separate fund. Chair contacted Mike Cahalane, who has been acting in an advisory capacity to the BOS on municipal funding matters, and emailed Chuck Fuller about making this move. Diane reported that the BOS agreed at their Sept. 28 meeting to move the PLA funding to the Other Conservation category. This helped reduce ECC's budget request from \$5,455.00 to \$3,805.
- Kamal reported on logging activity on a 225-acre lot on Wilkinson Swamp Road (Tax Map 412, Lot 57). He said that the logging operation had been going on for months, and that there are three signs posted advertising modular homes. Harry provided some insight on the companies involved.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 1, 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*); Steve Jarecki(*alt.*). Absent: Virginia Wrabel(*alt.*); Bill Wrabel (*alt.*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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