

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, January 3, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Corey Lane from Porter, Maine, attended as a guest. She was following up on her request from the Dec. 6, 2021 meeting, for a letter of support from ECC regarding reconsideration of the approval of gas service resuming at the convenience store formerly known as Boyle's Market.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Dec. 6, 2021 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: After expenditures totaling \$4,017 from the 2021 budget allotment of \$5,455, \$1,437 remains to be carried forward into the Conservation Fund.
- Steve Jarecki was sworn in as a full member of ECC by Deanna at the Town Offices on Dec 9.

Water Issues:

- Pursuant to Corey Lane's request, members considered two drafts of a letter prepared by the Chair to express concerns about the environmental issues related to the re-installation of gas pumps at the Boyle's Market site. The arguments against a gas station on that site all hinge on the vulnerability of the aquifer and the proximity of wetlands and a brook. The final draft incorporated elements of both rough drafts. It will be submitted to the Planning Board before Site Plan Review. Meanwhile, the court challenge to the ZBA approval is still in process, with a decision projected for March.

Land Issues:

- None

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal maintains communication with Wendy Scribner regarding the April public program on the history of wildlife in NH, but no specific arrangements have been made yet.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- ECC approved Tim's draft of the annual summary for the 2021 annual Town Report
- Members presented their ideas for projects that ECC could apply for grants to fund. Suggestions included updating the ECC brochure to include the LLP and PRCP; installing an informational kiosk at the PRCP; aquifer protection through stormwater runoff control measures and stream bank restoration for the town; funding to send more local kids to conservation-oriented summer camp programs; habitat preservation and improvement for specific species; watershed management; and improvements to broadband access.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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