

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, March 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Feb. 7 meeting were approved.
- Financial report: Nothing has been expended from the requested 2022 budget allotment of \$3,805.00. awaiting approval by the voters at the deliberative session of Town Meeting. The conservation fund balance is \$13,574.00. The invasive plant fund balance is \$14,198.00.
- Town voting scheduled for Tuesday, March 8 at the town offices, School Street from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Deliberative session slated for Saturday, March 12, at Effingham Elementary School at 9 a.m.

Water Issues:

- The Superior Court upheld the ZBA approval of the variance for Meena LLC. The Planning Board's next meeting, regarding the Meena project's status as a Development of Regional Impact will be held on Thursday, April 7, at the town offices, School Street.

Land Issues:

-

Education and Outreach:

- Emelyn made a flyer for the Earth Day Poster Contest at Effingham Elementary School. The theme is Solar Energy: Earth-Friendly Energy for All.
- Earth Day roadside cleanup and KELF – Emelyn also produced posters to promote the annual roadside litter cleanup in late April, and the ongoing KELF (Keep Effingham Litter-Free) program that anyone can join to pick up roadside litter all year. She checked with Bill Wrabel at the transfer station to confirm that there is an ample supply of blue bags and protective gloves. Negotiations continue to secure Bill's services as grillmeister for the cookout after the April roadside cleanup.
- Kamal reported on the status of the Zoom presentation on Wild History – 350 years of New Hampshire Wildlife, scheduled for Friday, April 22 at 7 p.m. in a computer near you. He presented the draft flyer provided by Wendy Scribner of UNH Extension. Kamal also suggests cooperative promotion with GMCG, the Effingham Preservation Society, Effingham Historical Society, and the Effingham Public Library.
- Effingham Preservation Society is still working on a date for their street fair. According to Karen Payne, they're hoping to hold the event in August or September. If the date is established soon enough, ECC might be able to arrange a presentation by the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, Maine.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- A Zoom presentation from NHACC on March 2 included information on several funding options for trails. Kamal emailed the PDF of grant options to members for their consideration. This fits with the ongoing goal of improving opportunities for public

enjoyment of Effingham's natural environment, particularly on existing conservation land.

- Members discussed other projects and programs to enhance conservation and nature awareness. These include updating the ECC brochure, placing a nice kiosk on the PRCP, completing PRCP trail improvements, and adding benches on improved PRCP trail system. Aquifer protection in Effingham, would include erosion control, storm water mitigation, and stream bank management and restoration for wildlife management. For enhanced educational opportunities, ECC might seek grant funding for students to attend conservation camp programs as available in the area.
- Kamal suggested revising the brochure significantly to promote ECC's accomplishments and the value that they represent to the town.
- Regarding trail enhancements at PRCP, Kamal provided some information on the Lee River Trail Project, which uses QR codes. For non-electronic options, members discussed the relative merits of garden markers versus wooden blocks placed on short plastic or fiberglass wands at points of interest.

Old Business:

- Diane reported on the streetlight situation. Streetlights are billed by almanac data of daylight versus night hours, multiplied by the number of streetlights on the town's ledger. Ledger data is not always up to date. According to Audrey Fraizer, Effingham has five lights on the ledger that no longer exist. Eversource apparently offers an incentive fund of 18 cents per kilowatt if town's convert to LED lighting. Private area lighting is billed separately from roadside and intersection lighting. Harry asked about the cost of conversion and whether taxpayers would have to cover this expense. Grant funding may be available from multiple sources since energy saving has become a priority issue at all levels of government.
- Emelyn will check with Andrew Lester to make sure that he is still able to resume and complete the trail work in PRCP this spring or summer.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 4, 2022, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

These minutes are draft until approved