

These minutes are draft until approved

___ Approved

___ Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, April 4, 2022

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

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the March 7 meeting were approved. Kamal requested that the actual vote to set the date and time of the April 22 Zoom presentation be expressed more prominently.
- Financial Report: The Conservation Fund balance as of the last statement is \$13,574.89. With nothing expended yet from the 2022 budget allotment, that stands at \$3,805.00. Voters approved \$2,500.00 added to the Invasive Plant Fund, bringing that balance to \$16,698.90.

Water Issues:

- The Planning Board will continue the hearing on the Meena gas station at the former Boyle's Market as a Development of Regional Impact, on Thursday, April 7 at 6:45 p.m.

Land Issues:

- PRCP trail: Chair has reached out to Andrew Lester/Bella Terra Trail Design about resuming work on the additional trails. Kamal will handle follow-up contact and ongoing liaison.

Education and Outreach:

- Spring Roadside Trash Cleanup: Kamal reported no responses to the email he sent to the KELF list. Some members reported that they did not receive the email. Diane suggested resending it before considering it a sign of declining interest. Kamal and Diane both support returning the roadside cleanup to a single day event launching the litter cleanup season. Members also agreed that blue bags and grabbers should be available at the library and town offices again, rather than only at the Transfer Station, to make them more convenient to more residents. For this year's cleanup on Saturday, April 30, Emelyn will be at the Town Offices at 8 a.m. to give out road assignments. She remains confident of successful negotiations with Bill Wrabel for grillmeister services. Effingham Elementary will do a trash cleanup on the actual Earth Day, April 22.
- **Important warning re. trash/litter cleanup:** Harry reports that the Effingham Police Department advises that fentanyl has been found in soda bottles discarded along roadways, so avoid contact with bottles containing liquid.
- History of Wildlife Zoom presentation: Diane will put notices on social media for the April 22 presentation. It will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Emelyn will place flyers at physical locations including the Town Offices and the library.
- The NH Geological Survey will be gathering information in the area covered by the USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle for Tuftonboro, which includes the tiniest sliver of Effingham. The goal is to map glacial deposits such as sand and gravel.
- Audrey Frazier forwarded a request from one Emily Hoover asking that ECC include a link to sites she has constructed, directing people to lakes and beaches with public access.

The email also reported that the ECC link to the Silver Lake Association was not loading correctly. Emelyn contacted Theresa Swanick about these items.

- With information apparently setting Saturday, August 20 as the date for the Effingham Preservation Society Street Fair, ECC will proceed to engage the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, Maine, to provide a presentation on Birds of Prey, at the Historical Society building from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. ECC will vote on the expenditure at the May 2 meeting.
- From the grant wish list, at this meeting the members discussed only the proposal to fund a scholarship to send children from Effingham to some sort of environmental education camps. Kamal had compiled a list which included an offering at Effingham Elementary School and a one-day workshop at GMCG, as well as possibilities further afield, in Tamworth and in Concord, NH. Members discussed the selection process for both applicants and for the programs to send them to. Because the spur for the project was grant funding, the idea needs to be fully formed and organized in order to pursue funding and provide the matching funds so often required. Kamal will follow up with GMCG and Emelyn will communicate with EES Principal Patti Morrissey regarding the local options.
- The Earth Day Poster Contest at EES is underway. Emelyn has already gotten the book prizes for grade winners. Artistic dreams will be fulfilled or crushed by the hard but fair ECC jury at the May 2 meeting.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- PRCP Kiosk: As part of the grant wish list, ECC has been discussing design options for a kiosk at the parking area for the PRCP. In order to write a grant, the design needs to be finalized, including material cost estimates. Jack and Steve will work together on refining what can be done with the design parameters that the general ECC membership develops. The basics include an informative map. Extras would depend on whether ECC installs interpretive markers at various vegetation of interest.
- Emelyn will head Epsom on Friday, April 15, to get several cases of blue bags for litter cleanup. Municipalities can get up to ten cases of 200 bags each, at no charge. Diane called shotgun.

Old Business:

- LED Street Lighting: Diane reported that she will have more information for the May 2 meeting regarding the town's options for LED conversion.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, May 2, 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 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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