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___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, May 2, 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 April 4, 2022 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Only \$64.94 has been expended from the 2022 budget allotment, leaving \$3,740.06. The conservation fund balance is \$13,574. The invasive plant fund balance is \$16,698.90.

Water Issues:

- The town asked ECC for information on designated FEMA floodplains in Effingham. This is not information that ECC normally collects and provides. Kamal proposed having a wetland scientist do an evaluation and study of floodplain areas of town, to enhance the environmental knowledge and preparedness of the town. He has contacted B.H. Keith Associates regarding what such a study would entail, but at the time of the meeting had not heard back. Kamal also suggested contacting Rick Van de Poll, and then working on grant funding once the extent of the project is more clearly defined.
- Bailey Road Project: Chair reports that the Bailey Road culvert project also includes shoreline stabilization where erosion from Province Lake threatens to wash out the road.

Land Issues:

- PRCP Trail Extension: Andrew Lester is no longer building trails. He has contacted an associate who may take on the project, or he might be able to arrange accommodations for himself, and the use of equipment to complete the project. Kamal has also gotten referrals for a trail builder based in Parsonsfield, Maine, Recon Trail Design. All options will be explored to get the project completed. As a first step, Kamal will try to set a time and date for Andrew to walk and flag his proposed route, so that ECC has a baseline to show a builder of Andrew is unable to complete the actual construction.
- PRCP kiosk: Jack presented two conceptual drawings for kiosks to install once the trail system in PRCP is complete. Members discussed the two options, as well as design ideas for trailside interpretive markers.

Education and Outreach:

- Earth Day Roadside Trash Cleanup: As of Sunday, May 1, the bag count stood at 167, an encouraging recovery from last year's low tally of 67. Chair estimates that 25 volunteers showed up for road assignments at the town offices in the morning, and 20 attended the lunch afterward. Other volunteers may have operated independently. The prize catch of the day was the \$100 bill netted by Dave Strauss on Champion Hill Road, which he donated to ECC. Kamal moved and Diane seconded to accept the donation to the conservation fund. The motion was approved unanimously.
- History of Wildlife Zoom Presentation: Wendy Scribner of UNH Extension presented an overview of 350 years of human observations of New Hampshire's wildlife. Only 14

people logged on. The recording may be linked to the ECC page of the town website for later viewing.

- Aug. 20 Street Fair: The Center for Wildlife has confirmed ECC's booking for a program on birds of prey. ECC will work on promotion of the event.
- Eco Camp funding: Lacking a camp recipient this year, ECC looks ahead to next year when, according to Effingham Elementary School Principal Patti Morrissey, fourth and fifth graders will be selected to attend a program to be determined. For this year, the \$250 line item in the ECC budget for environmental education will be assigned to a program at GMCG teaching about the role of bats in the environment, and building bat houses. Jack made the motion to expend, seconded by Kamal. The motion carried unanimously.
- Earth Day Poster Contest: ECC's Critics' Circle gathered around the tables for the annual ritual of ruthlessly weeding the creative output of children tasked with expressing the theme "Solar Energy: Earth-friendly Energy for All." Winners were chosen. Prizes will be presented to them at EES on Monday, May 9.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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