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\_\_\_ Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, June 6, 2022

The meeting was opened at 6:45 p.m. Wetland scientist Dan Coons attended to consult on research projects ECC hopes to undertake in the near future and beyond. The primary basis for the projected studies comes from the Wildlife Action Plan final report covering surveys done from 2007-2009. Kamal provided an overview, followed by lengthy discussion of town wetlands and wildlife habitat, ground water protection, and the previous studies for the wetland inventory and Wildlife Action Plan. In addition, Dan will look into the process for compiling floodplain maps to meet FEMA requirements. As plans take more organized form, ECC can seek grants as applicable.

Chair reported that Harry would not be attending because he was being careful in recovery from hip replacement. ECC sends their best wishes for a speedy return to full strength.

Organizational Issues: The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

- The minutes of the May 2, 2022 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Against a 2022 budget allotment of \$3,805.00, \$406 has been expended. The Conservation Fund (savings) has a balance of \$13,675.00. Jack will check with Audrey regarding the status of ECC's share of the Current Use Change Tax revenues.

Water Issues:

- The Planning Board will continue its hearing on July 7 regarding the independent evaluation of inadequacies in the site plan submitted by Meena LLC for redevelopment of the gas station on the former Boyle's Market property.

Land Issues:

- Kamal reported on communication with Andrew Lester regarding the trail expansion in the PRCP. Kamal had requested that Andrew flag the trail routes that he had laid out when the work was going to be done last year. Andrew agreed to do that and trim out the trails by hand. Kamal reported that both routes had been flagged by May 31. Andrew is slated to return to do the trail cutting, and install nonskid surfaces on the bridges on the old trail in the next few weeks. Kamal suggested reinforcing the flagging with blazes. Chair said that ECC needs a revised estimate, since the job no longer reflects the level of work incorporated in the original bid.

Education and Outreach:

- At next month's meeting, ECC will plan the details of hosting the "Birds of Prey" presentation, offered by the Center for Wildlife, in conjunction with the Effingham Street Fair on Saturday, Aug. 20.
- Bat House Workshop: ECC has provided \$250 to sponsor four school children to participate in the GMCG bat house workshop on Friday, June 17. The Chair contacted Patti Morrissey for suggestions of student candidates for the event. The money will be sent directly to GMCG.

- Effingham Elementary School Earth Day Poster Contest prizes were delivered on May 9.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Chair attended a reorganization of the modular building behind the Town Offices on May 24. Zoning Officer Rebecca Boyden suggested changes to use the space more efficiently. In the archeological process, explorers discovered two file drawers of forgotten ECC documents, in addition to the known filing cabinets. Chair requested volunteers to help with the process of sorting and condensing the accumulated materials. Diane volunteered. Time and date TBD.
- We weren't going to talk about it, but then we talked about it: What items from the 2022 grant wish list are ready to pursue, or at least closer to being ready? Members discussed options that are specific and concise, like the kiosk for PRCP, benches along the new trails, and updating the ECC brochure. Chair urged members to think about the items on the list and scout around for applicable grant sources.

Old business:

- Chair asked whether there had been any progress on the conversion of town streetlights to LED. Diane reported that there had been no forward movement. At the Chair's urging, she said that she would check with Audrey.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, July 4, 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 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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