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Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, October 3, 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 Sept. 6 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: ECC has expended \$1,707.48 of the 2022 budget allotment of \$3,805.00, leaving a balance of \$2,907.52.
- 2023 Budget: Chair delivered the 2023 budget request at the end of September. It includes only minor increases. These include \$50 more for GMCG water quality testing, bringing the line item total to \$1050.00; and \$500.00 more for land improvements, bringing that line item total to \$1,000.00. The budget was augmented in 2022 by the addition of a line item accruing funds for land acquisition, with a starting allotment of \$1,000.00. Chair will discuss the budget with the BOS at their meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 4, and meet with the budget committee on Oct. 25.
- Land Acquisition: Members discussed establishing a separate account for land acquisition funds as they accumulate from annual budget allotments. This would allow the funds to be placed in higher-yield savings instruments since land purchases would not be frequent or generally on short notice.

Water Issues:

- The Planning Board will continue its hearing on the Meena LLC project at the site of the former Boyle's Market on Thursday, Oct. 6, at the Effingham Elementary School, 6 Partridge Cove Road, at 6:30 p.m. Zoom link is available by email at pb.admin@effinghamnh.net.
- Milfoil Control: Cliff Cabral of New England Milfoil will be directing a survey in Marist Cove and Effingham's section of the Ossipee River between the Route 153 bridge below the Falls, and the boat ramp below the Route 25 bridge within the next couple of weeks. His company has been working far up in Maine four days a week, limiting availability for this area. Chair will scout a milfoil outbreak in Leavitt Brook, reported by Roberta MacCarthy and advise Cliff of her findings.

Land Issues:

- Chair will discuss cleanup of storm damage in the LLP when she meets with the BOS on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Harry had earlier taped off the trail at the LLP to discourage entry because of the dangerous leaning trees pushed over by the wind. Cleanup will require heavy equipment and a professional crew. Until this is done, the LLP is not safe to enter.
- PRCP Wetland Trail: Kamal will follow up with Andrew Lester regarding his availability to complete the wetland trail in the PRCP this fall as promised. It is the final piece in the trail offerings there. Andrew was also going to install non-skid enhancements on the existing bridges. He had said that he was waiting for the materials to arrive.

Education and Outreach:

- Kamal reported on the three programs from the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center that ECC had flagged as potential choices for next year's presentation at the Effingham Street Fair. Members voted to select the one on "Animals with Bad Reputations," over the one on animal sounds or the one titled, "Why Do Animals Do That?" Kamal confirmed that the Preservation Society intends to have a fair next summer, currently scheduled for Aug. 12.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Current Use Change Tax: Members discussed whether to pursue a warrant article for the town meeting next year to raise the amount of the Current Use Change Tax directed to ECC from its present level of 50 percent, to 100 percent. The current rate of 50 percent is also capped at \$2,500.00 per year, if sufficient change tax revenue comes in to exceed that. Diane made a motion to draft such an article, seconded by Kamal. Audrey had provided a draft article, since the actual request is simple and direct. While the motion passed on the votes of Emelyn, Jack, Diane, and Kamal, Harry, Tim, and Steve voted against committing to pursue the article until ECC has more complete figures from Audrey on the actual amounts that have been collected, to provide not only specific data from year to year but an average to cite in discussions that may arise when town residents request supporting information for the request. Current Use Change Tax revenue is inconsistent and unpredictable, so it's not a mainstay in town financial planning. Action is deferred until the information is more complete. Audrey has told ECC that the new computer in the modular building behind the main town offices will have space for ECC. Diane volunteered to find out what sort of space and capability the computer offers, and determine whether it meets a current or future need for ECC.
- Diane reported that the Historical Society appreciated ECC's letter of thanks for the use of the hall for the wildlife presentation at this summer's street fair.
- Kamal reported that the Friends of the Effingham Library will hold a street dance at the same location as the summer's street fair, on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 3 to 6 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 7, 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 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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