

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, January 2, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Audrey Frazier, town administrator, attended. She provided guidance regarding ideas for the proposed warrant article to increase ECC funding from land use change tax. The debate mainly centered on whether to adjust the percentage or the imposed cap put in place in 2005 when LUCT funds were first authorized for ECC pursuant to RSA 36-A:5 III.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Dec. 5, 2022 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: A balance of \$2,097.52 left over from the 2022 budget will be added to the Conservation Fund (savings account). From the allotted \$3,805.00, \$1,707.48 was expended. Jack will work with Deputy Treasurer Dave Strauss regarding a discrepancy in the balances shown for the Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund. Checks for milfoil mitigation services are written by the town and then reimbursed to the town from the CRF. The CRF is replenished by appropriations approved by the voters annually at Town Meeting.

Water Issues:

- Chair requested \$3,020.25 be released by the Trustees of the Trust Funds from the Invasive Plant Fund to cover milfoil control activities for 2022.
- A ZBA hearing regarding an appeal of the Planning Board's decision not to require Meena LLC to get a Special Use Permit for their proposed gas station was scheduled for Wednesday, Jan 4, at the Effingham Elementary School, at 6:30 p.m. The Planning Board was scheduled to take up its site plan review of the Meena project on Thursday, Jan. 5, at the town offices at 6:30 p.m. There is also an action in Superior Court regarding the Special Use Permit.

Land Issues:

- Members discussed the extensive cleanup needed at the Larry Leavitt Preserve to clear away leaning trees and open the trail where other trees had already come down as a result of last month's storms. Harry had reported that safe removal of even a minimum of the debris will require heavy equipment and skilled operators.
- Members discussed finding a trail builder to put in the last trail flagged in the PRCP, since Bella Terra is no longer available. Further research is needed.

Education and Outreach:

- Members discussed the list of speakers and programs Kamal had compiled for a spring presentation. A program on "Birds, Bats, and Butterflies," from UNH Cooperative Extension won the competitive selection. It will be held on Friday, April 21, at the Effingham Public Library at 6:30 p.m.
- Members discussed preliminary ideas for the Earth Day Poster Contest at Effingham Elementary School. Discussion resumes next month.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Warrant Article: Members voted to adopt article language and an explanatory description produced from drafts submitted by Kamal, Tim, and Audrey. Chair was tasked to convey this to the BOS as the first step toward inclusion on the warrant for this year's town meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, 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 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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