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___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, March 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Feb. 6, 2023 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: ECC awaits the approval of the 2023 budget allocation of \$4,355.00. Meanwhile, the balance in the savings account is \$16,960.71, which includes carry-over from 2021 and 2022 budgets and a deposit of current use change tax of \$2,500.00 from 2021. The Invasive Plant Fund statement balance is \$13,657.65.

Water Issues:

- The planning board has received 90 pages of material from Meena LLC, after a 6-month wait for the latest of eight sets of documents submitted since the beginning of the review process. Meena's previous submissions have repeatedly failed to satisfy engineering review. The latest submission was delayed by a court-ordered stay as a legal case challenged the decision not to require a special use permit for the site. This stay appears still to be in effect, according to the Ossipee Lake Alliance, even though the Superior Court and the Effingham ZBA had both upheld the administrative decision by the planning board.

Land Issues:

- There has been no response as yet from the BOS regarding hiring professional help to clear dangerous leaning and downed trees from the LLP after the microburst last July.
- Kamal has made contact with Andrew Lester of Bella Terra Trail Design. Andrew may return in the late spring and summer to put in the final trail laid out in the PRCP. He also offered to do more trails if ECC wants. This may reactivate the idea of the island-hopping trail in the LLP, leading out into the wetland floodplain of the South River. Chair also mentioned that the nonskid surface still needs to be installed on the bridges in the PRCP. Diane moved and Kamal seconded to expend the remaining \$2,500.00 from ECC funds that had been allocated to the PRCP trails project.

Education and Outreach:

- Chair will confirm whether ECC has the use of the Town Offices meeting room for the public presentation on Birds, Bats, and Butterflies on Friday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. The program is one of many offered by UNH Extension to increase understanding of wildlife and their needs in the Granite State.
- Going completely bats, ECC has selected Bats as the subject for the Earth Day Poster Contest at Effingham Elementary School. Chair has produced a flyer to promote the contest and will communicate with EES Principal Patti Morrissey about it.
- GMCG will have a Zoom presentation about their extensive two-year culvert study throughout the Upper Saco Watershed, on Wed., April 19. Contact GMCG for more information.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Members discussed strategies for presenting and promoting Article 20 on the Town Warrant, which will be discussed and voted on at the deliberative session of Town Meeting on Saturday, March 18. These include identifying and contacting interested parties who might help to increase awareness and support in the community. This outreach will include the latest version of the fact sheet prepared by Emelyn, printed up by Jack. Kamal collected links that members can use to find talking points supporting the concept of open space and conservation land as an economic asset to the town.
- Chair commended Tim on his draft of the ECC annual summary to be included in the town annual report.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 3, 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 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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