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\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, June 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the May 3 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: After expenses submitted, the balance of the 2023 budget stands at \$3,908.55. Submitted expenses include the annual \$250.00 to send an EES student to environmental camp, \$82.96 for Earth Day expenses, \$64.00 for the book prizes for the Earth Day Poster Contest at EES, and \$49.49 for materials for replacing damaged rails on the birdwatching platform at the LLP. The ECC Fund balance is \$16,961. The Invasive Plant Fund balance is \$13,657.

### Water Issues:

- Milfoil: Chair has spoken with Cliff Cabral of New England Milfoil about the harvest needed in Leavitt Brook. Cliff said that it's on the schedule, but not yet specifically scheduled.
- The Planning Board hearing regarding the latest on the Meena LLC redevelopment of the Boyle's Market site is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, at Effingham Elementary School at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Robert Newton had finally been allowed to make his presentation and submit an eight-page report on the scientific basis for opposing the gas station at that location.
- Cyanobacteria blooms have been reported in Province Lake. DES advises against swimming or wading and warns against exposure of pets and children in particular to the toxic algae. DES and lake watchers will continue to monitor.

### Land Issues:

- Volunteers met on Monday, May 8 at the LLP to continue cleaning up storm and winter debris. Emelyn Albert, Mike Cahalane, Diane and Steve Jarecki, , Jack Williams, and Tim White removed more brush, branches, and logs to piles by the side of Route 153. As of the meeting on Monday, June 5, none of the piled debris had been picked up. Chair contacted Smith Family Tree Service to pick up the piles, but it has not been arranged yet.
- Jack replaced the damaged railings on the LLP birdwatching platform. In addition, Mrs. Carter, who lives across the street, has made attractive plantings of flowers around the sign for the preserve. A thank you note is pending.
- Kamal has heard from Andrew Lester regarding the possible completion of the PRCP trail system in June. Apparently, the trail contract in Tuftonboro that would have brought Andrew up here has fallen through. Andrew's next availability would be in September. In addition to following up with Andrew, ECC will contact Recon Trail Design about possibly taking on the job.

### Education and Outreach:

- The final tally of blue bags for the Earth Day roadside cleanup was 107 bags. Chair rated it an amazing result considering that a low number of volunteers signed up and appeared

in person at the cookout afterward. Chair contacted Chuck Fuller about coordinating the event with the library next year, but there has been no further discussion of it.

Meanwhile, litterbugs are rebuilding their art installations along town roads to help keep KELF volunteers trained and ready in preparation for next year's event.

- Speaking of art, the book prizes were awarded for the Earth Day Poster Contest at EES on Monday, May 15. A photo of the winners will be posted on the town website in due course.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Town response to the suggestion that ECC funds be moved to a (relatively) high yield money market account at Northway Bank has been slow. Town Treasurer Elaine Chick pointed out that the account might require extra steps for office personnel, and that a lower yielding account at Bank of New Hampshire might be more likely. Jack moved to pursue the account at Bank of NH. Tim proposed an amendment to the motion to pursue the Northway Bank account as a first choice, but settle for Bank of NH as a default.

Amended motion seconded by Diane. Passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, July 10, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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