

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, August 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Recent expenditures include \$300.00 for the Animals with Bad Reputations presentation scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 12, and \$1,463.00 to New England Milfoil for the first installment of milfoil harvesting. The ECC fund balance is \$16,564. The Invasive Plant Fund balance is \$14,694.

Water Issues:

- New England Milfoil will return later to survey Marist Cove and the Ossipee River.

Land Issues:

- Because ECC had not received an estimate or return communication from Dale Smith regarding transporting the cleanup debris from the LLP, members agreed to take Mike Cahalane up on his offer to take it to the Transfer Station in his truck. Volunteers will meet at the LLP on Monday, Aug. 14 at 9 a.m. to load the brush.
- Chair met with Matt Coughlan of Recon Trail Design to walk the route of the last trail in the PRCP. Kamal suggested adding site prep for a bench on the upland trail and possibly installation of the bench itself if it has been acquired, as well as the long-delayed non-slip strips on the existing bridges on the original trail, and filling a depression in the trail near the sign by the parking. Trail work projected to be done in 2024.

Education and Outreach:

- ECC will sponsor a presentation by the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center on the topic, "Animals with Bad Reputations," in the Effingham Historical Society building at 1 p.m. ECC volunteers will set up the room at 12:30 and restore it at 2 p.m.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- The Effingham Planning Board finally approved the site plan for the Meena LLC gas station project at the site of the former Boyle's Market. However, since this whole saga is nothing but a series of plot twists, the Findings of Fact document supporting the Planning Board's decision included the statement that the developers began their excavation and installation without permits based on approval by the board of selectmen at the time. The same BOS issued a cease and desist order early in the process of seeking proper approvals and permits, calling this claim into question. And at this point it's hard to tell who it helps, if anyone.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Sept. 4, 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 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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