

These minutes are draft until approved

\_\_\_Approved

\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, September 4, 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 Aug. 7, 2023 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: A balance of \$2,479.06 remains in the 2023 budget after the annual release of \$1,050.00 to GMCG for WQM, and \$79.09 for office supplies. The ECC Fund balance is \$16,564.44. The Invasive Plant Fund balance is \$14,694.45.

### Water Issues:

- Move over, milfoil, the party just got more crowded. Observers have reported that Swollen Bladderwort (*Utricularia inflata*), has been found in Pine River Pond in Wakefield, and escaped into Pine River. Not just a hardy intruder, it is also carnivorous. Large mats of it have been known to skeletonize a small mammal in hours. Keep small children and pets clear of any concentrations. ONLY KIDDING: It really only consumes small insects and invertebrates, and occasional small tadpoles. Chair has contacted Cliff Cabral to see if he knows anything about mitigation strategies for this different species of undesirable water weed. Users of the Pine River should watch for signs of Swollen Bladderwort. There are native species of bladderwort as well. These are not a threat.

### Land Issues:

- On Aug. 14, Em, Jack, and Tim joined Mike Cahalane (and his dump truck) at the LLP to load up the last brush and debris from the cleanup of storm debris. Mike transported multiple loads and dumped them on his property. Big thanks to Mike as always, as well as our determined ECC volunteers fighting above their weight class time and again. There were some logs in that pile!
- PRCP trails: Recon Trail Design presented an estimate of \$14,500 for the proposed trail work in the PRCP. This consisted of \$9,900 for the new trail, \$3,800 for a 75-foot bog bridge and application of non skid surfacing on existing bog bridges, and \$800 to raise and harden existing trails in low spots. Matt from Recon walked the proposed trail with Emelyn. Em reports that she did not see where a 75-foot new bridge was necessary. Bella Terra's estimate for the new trail was \$2,500 at last contact with Andrew Lester. The trail is less than a quarter of a mile long (1,050 feet). ECC will invite Matt from Recon to an upcoming meeting to discuss this estimate and any options he might have to offer. Meanwhile, Kamal has already looked into grant sourcing. Funding may not be available for 2024. Members discussed various options. Investigation continues.

### Education and Outreach:

- The presentation on Animals with Bad Reputations on Aug. 12 in conjunction with the Street Fair was well attended, with an audience of 45. Squam Lakes Science Center brought a porcupine, a skunk, and a big brown bat, and explained why these animals have the reputations that they do.

### Other Business and Special Reports:

- None

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 2, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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