

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, December 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public. Harry shared the harrowing tale of how he was stranded in a remote cabin last month, unable to reach us for the November meeting or even communicate with the outside world. Having only wild game and whatever provisions they had managed to bring with them, his group ultimately was able to return to civilization after days of isolation.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Nov. 6, 2023, meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: \$2,479.06 remains from the 2023 budget allocation. The ECC fund balance shows zero because the account has been closed. The remaining balance in the old account was \$16,961.68, which was transferred to a money market account for which no statements have been received yet. The Invasive Plant Capital Reserve Fund balance is \$11,280.31 after a total of \$4,877.34 was paid out to New England Milfoil for survey and harvesting expenses. ECC requested replenishment of the expended amount in the allocations for next year.

Water Issues:

- Speaking of milfoil, Cliff Cabral of New England Milfoil reported finding several areas of milfoil in Ossipee River. The river had not been done last year because so much time had to be spent on Leavitt Brook. Regarding sections Cliff reported on the Freedom side, Chair referred Cliff to Ned Kucera of Freedom.
- Members discussed the new threat of Swollen Bladderwort. It has been reported in Maine as well as Pine River Pond.

Land Issues:

- Discussion of funding for trail work in the PRCP was held over to a subsequent meeting at which Kamal can report on his research into grant sources

Education and Outreach:

- Members discussed where in the information kiosk to post the write-up on the 2021 microburst damage at the LLP.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- The Trustees of the Trust Funds have instituted a more elaborate and detailed procedure for applying to have funds released for authorized expenses. A voucher has to be accompanied by all receipts.
- Members reviewed the letter of support composed and submitted by the Chair for GMCG's application for funding for a FEMA Feasibility Planning Process.
- The Meena case continues on Wednesday, Dec 6 when the Effingham ZBA hears and appeal of an administrative decision filed by property abutters Tammy McPherson and Bill Bartoswicz. The petitioners contend that new structures on the former Boyle's Market property violate setbacks and were not properly permitted. McPherson and Bartoswicz contend that the store is technically abandoned and therefore has lost its grandfathered status.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 (Happy New Year!), at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m. Champagne, hors d'oeuvres and musical entertainment are not expected. Dress is casual.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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