

These minutes are draft until approved

\_\_\_Approved

\_\_\_Approved with changes.

## Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, February 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 p.m. Long story, kind of funny. You had to be there. Then, Jill Emerson of GMCG presented the annual Water Quality Monitoring report for the sites they test in Effingham. That program has been gathering important data for 22 years.

### Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Jan. 1, 2024 minutes were approved.
- Financial Report: A check for \$2,479, the leftover budget from 2023, was deposited in the new money market account. The 2024 budget allotment of \$4405 is awaiting approval by the voters at town meeting in March. The ECC fund balance is \$16,961.18. The Invasive Plant fund balance is \$14,694.45. Town meeting appropriations are expected to replace funds expended on milfoil cleanup last year.
- The annual ECC summary Tim compiled was submitted to the town for inclusion in the 2023 town report.

### Water Issues:

- Can't live without it. Don't want it in your basement.

### Land Issues:

- The search continues for resources to help fund and construct the remaining trails in the PRCP.

### Education and Outreach:

- Grace Fuller of the Library Trustees responded favorably to the idea of partnering with ECC for the April roadside litter cleanup. ECC will now have to coordinate the event with Sarah, the librarian.
- Effingham Elementary School students suggested a number of themes for upcoming Earth Day poster contests. For this year, members chose composting from a list that included oceans, fresh water sources, wind power, climate change impacts, wildfires, local gardening and crops, sea turtles, recycling, litter control, walk to school day, and the hazardous waste impact of battery powered equipment.
- Chair posted the write-up about the 2021 microburst in the kiosk at the LLP. She reported that the hardest part was opening the Plexiglas™ cover, which had not been opened since the kiosk was built. Kamal had suggested making a more extensive educational poster, but there were no photos of the damage immediately after, or the condition of the LLP before the event, and generic photos didn't seem very helpful.

### Other Business and Special Reports:

- The Planning Board announced its intention to propose a zoning amendment that removes the fire chief and ECC from the review process for spill control measures at potential hazardous waste facilities in the Groundwater Protection District.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, March 4, 2024, at the municipal offices, School Street, at 6:30 p.m.

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 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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