

These minutes are draft until approved

___Approved

___Approved with changes.

Effingham Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, March 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. There were no guests or members of the public. But there was all of us.

Organizational Issues:

- The minutes of the Feb. 5 meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Nothing has been expended from the as yet unimplemented 2024 budget request of \$4,405.00. Approval of that is expected at the March 16 deliberative session of the town meeting. The money market account contains \$19,441.92. Kamal noted that \$2,000 of that was appropriated specifically for future conservation land purchases, so the true uncommitted fund balance should be recorded as \$17,441.92. Future accounting reports will reflect this distinction, adjusted to include any further monies specifically targeted in appropriation. The Invasive Plant fund balance is \$14,694.45.

Water Issues:

- None currently active

Land Issues:

- Trail resources: Chair heard from Katherine Dufault of CCCD, who had some ideas for trail grants. Katherine was unable to attend this meeting, but plans to attend the April 1 meeting. Katherine stated that ECC will need two more trail building estimates, letters of support for the project, and be willing to contribute some ECC funds to the project. In a possibly related circumstance, there is a webinar on state conservation funding this Wednesday, March 6. Diane and Jack plan to attend.
- Diane has researched trail companies. She requested basic design parameters so that she could present them to these companies in requests for bids. She will then follow up and report back.

Education and Outreach:

- Chair met with Effingham Librarian Sara Newell to discuss partnership between ECC and the library for the April roadside cleanup on Saturday, April 27, and other efforts. Sara stated that she would inform library patrons, supply tables for the picnic, and provide use of the library bathroom. She also said that she would see about providing folding chairs. Any shortage could be covered by borrowing some from the Effingham Historical Society. Jack will look into that.
- Chair presented the flyer for the roadside litter cleanup and the general KELF flyer to promote the ongoing effort by volunteers to keep up with the prolific contributions of slob drivers along town roads.
- Sara also mentioned that the library had four trash grabbers to loan that have since gone missing. Diane moved and Jack seconded Chair's suggestion that ECC expend \$104 plus shipping to purchase five new grabbers to resupply the library and add to the ECC arsenal. Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

- Earth Day Poster Contest: Selecting from a list of suggestions submitted by EES students, ECC has chosen composting as the topic for this year's edition of the contest. Jack moved and Kamal seconded the motion to expend \$57.85 for seven books on composting that Chair found online. Passed unanimously on a voice vote. Each grade winner will get the dirt on composting in age appropriate reading material.
- Members agreed to schedule a live animal presentation to coincide with the Street Fair in August. Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, Maine, is up next in our rotation of program providers. Members selected the program on owls. Chair and Kamal will look into details.

Other Business and Special Reports:

- Two warrant articles pertain to ECC. The first, listed as Article 02, says that it amends the zoning ordinance Article 22 because the role of the fire chief in approving spill control countermeasure plans is unclear and that the fire chief is not routinely trained to be automatically qualified in his official role to assess such plans. However, the warrant article is so vaguely worded that it does not describe what the "clarified" role of the fire chief would be. ECC does not approve this warrant article. Diane moved that ECC record in the minutes that due to the ambiguity and lack of clarity in Article 2 the commission does not support it. Seconded by Steve. Passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- Another article on the warrant, Article 15, requests that the voters approve raising and appropriating \$5,000.00 to be added to the Invasive Aquatic Plant Non-Capital Reserve Fund. No amount will be raised from taxation. Passage requires a majority vote. ECC approves this article.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, April 1 (seriously, no foolin'), 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 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White, Recording Secretary

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