

**OFFICIAL MINUTES:**  
**Eliot Conservation Commission**  
**Eliot, Maine 03903**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES: Business Meeting**

**DATE: January 15, 2014**  
**APPROVED: March 6, 2014**

**OFFICERS:**  
**Chairman:**  
**Vice chairman: Glenn Crilley**  
**Secretary: Claudette Moran**  
**Treasurer: Jeff Duncan**

APR 25 2014

Wendy Rauski  
Town Clerk

Meeting was called to order at 7:10PM at Town Hall

In attendance: Glenn Crilley, Connie Weeks, Jeff Duncan , Kim Richards, Ernie Bruneau, Claudette Moran, and Jack Murphy (BOS)

Absent: Tim Straz,

Guest: Donna Murphy, Orland McPherson, Jennifer Fox

PAST MINUTES: accepted as amended for December 4, 2013.

FINANCIAL REPORT: no changes in expenses.

2014-2015 BUDGET: There was much discussion about the planned budget and what would be best as a warrant article. The main issue was that the land bank money has been reduced without being adequately refurbished for future acquisitions. Currently, there are a couple of other pieces of land over which the ECC is in negotiations. The strong concern is that, in order to properly negotiations in a timely fashion, the land bank is in need of monies. In the end, it was agreed that the budget request would be \$8,050 with an operating budget of \$3,050 (which would include any matching monies we would likely need should any grants become available, maintenance expenses to Johnson Lane, etc.) and a line item for the land bank of \$5,000. Money is needed prior to contracts being signed for expenses outside of the price (land surveys, lawyer's fees, etc.).

For other projects beyond this amount, the ECC would seek approval and funding from the BOS.

A vote was taken and all were in favor of this budget proposal.

There is a warrant article being prepared to address a current piece of land that is currently in negotiations. The warrant article relates to the funding of the acquisition of this property.

RUSSELL WOOD (Johnson Farm) FARM: The belief was that the closing would occur in January. However, with the government slow down, the date has been pushed back. The amount Eliot owed to Kittery Land Trust for easement rights to the farm have been sent.

A question arose as to the owners allowing "signage" to be erected. As it is land that will remain as a working farm and in the hands of the current owners, it was not known what the response would be to signage.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Kim mentioned that we, as a group, are quite invisible to the town. There is no public access television to make any announcements. We have in the past posted signs around town, contacted various committees and organizations in town regarding some of our educational programs. Turnout has always been good but essentially conservation minded supporters have come to these meetings without adding new interest in the ECC.

One thought was to reach out to the elementary school and speak to the students about the value of what Eliot has to offer and make them aware of the critical and important needs of the town that need to be conserved, e.g. vernal pools, etc.

Also, there is renewed interest in looking at grants that might be available.

PUNKINTOWN: Glenn will continue to contact Tad Baker and confirm the March date for him to come to the ECC meeting. He will contact Ernie so that Ernie can contact the Eliot Historical Society.

JOHNSON FARM: The amount Eliot owed to Kittery Conservation Commission for easement rights to the farm have been sent.

ELIOT OPEN SPACE: Jennifer pointed out changes that have been made as well as things that have been completed:

The inventory of the Heath has not been done because too few current landowners would allow access for a proper and meaningful survey.

Kim Richards offered to begin speaking to current land owners to make them aware of the value (ecologically, environmentally, etc.) of their land. Many people (not all) are uneducated about the valuable resource that they own. Hopefully this will make all more aware and better stewards of their properties. Also, it will help to give a broader face to the ECC in the community.

For the next meeting, all members should read and come prepared to discuss the Open Space Plan and begin to work on the ECC's assigned duties.

Jennifer suggested we work with willing landowners regarding acquisition. She also mentioned that the Indian River Camp Ground is a valuable piece of land that is still up for sale along with a few lots nearby.

Jennifer also suggested that we look at partnering with other groups in town to seek/receive their approval as we move towards public education of Eliot's resources, especially the Recreation Department and the School department.

JOHNSON LANE TOWN FOREST: Tin Smith is working on a Purchase and Sale and a warrant article. Dan Blanchette did send out the notices regarding the other properties there. We need to allow for the process (time) to work through before anything more can be done.

FRIENDS OF THE YORK RIVER: no new news.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: Jeff did not attend the last Planning Board meeting but said that there is a subdivision being planned.

OLD BUSINESS:

Glenn received notice of Dan Blanchette's retirement party set for Robert's Grill at 6:00PM on January 31. He needs a head count by January 20.

Ernie inquired about the dragon fly program we used to have. He will check into the news that the importation of dragon flies from outside Maine might be illegal. If it is permitted, he will pursue the purchase of dragon flies for this Spring.

ROUND TABLE: Nada.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 7:00PM at town hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM PM

Respectfully submitted,



Claudette C. Moran  
Secretary, ECC

cc: Eliot town clerk  
Commission Members  
Commission File