

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

**DATE: February 20 ,2012**  
**APPROVED: March 7, 2012**

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:05PM at Town Hall

In attendance:, Connie Weeks, Steve Towne, Claudette Moran, Tim Straz, , Ken Wood, alternate member Ernest Bruneau

Absent: Glenn Crilley, Jeff Duncan

Guest: Chris Schoppmeyer (NOAA), Jennifer Fox, John (Jack) Murphy (BOS), and Roland Fernald (BOS)

Ken Wood was acting chair. Ernie was granted voting privileges for the meeting.

The meeting was scheduled for tonight because the earlier February date did not have a quorum. Also, this was the only date that most of the ECC commission members were able to attend.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** As the treasurer was absent, there was no financial report.

**PAST MINUTES:** Minutes for the January 4, 2012 meeting was accepted as amended.

**JOHNSON FARM PROJECT:** Jennifer Fox informed the ECC that the Kittery Land Trust regarding the Johnson Farm in Kittery/Eliot is moving quickly. About 90 acres of the almost 300 acres are in Eliot. Richard Johnson is going to continue working the dairy farm and is buying out his siblings. There is a deed restriction that will allow 2 ten acre building lots, i.e. of the almost 300 acres, 20 (2 ten acre lots) will be buildable while the remaining acreage will remain in agricultural protection.

In order to buy the development rights to the Johnson Farm, Kittery Land Trust must raise the funds. Based on the appraisal received, Eliot land is worth just under \$90,000. Kittery Land Trust will also for FRT funding. The FRT's are based on a dollar for dollar match. The Maine coordinator for the funding has given positive reviews regarding the Johnson Farm property. Great Works Regional Land Trust is also interested in this property and is willing to invest \$25,000 towards it.

Application for funding through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program must be in by the beginning of April. The awarding of the successful application is made known in May. Kittery Land Trust may seek a bond from the town but has been putting aside money for this project. In addition to the cost of development rights, there are also other costs (closing costs, stewardship costs, etc.).

Public access to the land will remain as it is currently.

Can the town of Eliot tap into the Conservation Commission Land Bank Capital Reserve Fund for \$25,000? The question was raised as to the actual permitted use of the funds. Does the fund state that it is for "acquisition" of land or does the permitted use of the money allow for purchase of development rights, easements, etc.? Regardless, the ECC must make a request to the BOS for release of the funds as they are the overseers of the Conservation Commission Land Bank Capital Reserve Fund.

A motion was made that the ECC ask the BOS to approve the release of \$25,000 from the Conservation Commission Land Bank Capital Reserve Fund for the Eliot contribution towards the purchase of the development rights on the Johnson Farm property. Motion was seconded and passed.

A second motion was made to request a warrant article be placed before the town requesting that the \$25,000 taken from the Conservation Commission Land Bank Capital Reserve Fund be replaced to that account.

A letter of request needs to be written to request the moneys mentioned in the two motions. The letters should be sent to Barbara Thain for proper processing.

Roland Fernald, chair of the BOS, said that someone needs to come to a BOS meeting and suggested that, if someone could come to this Thursday's meeting (February 23), the request could be made within the Department heads and Board members session on the agenda.

If the funds cannot be obtained in full, Kittery may seek to complete the project in two phases.

**MULTI-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:** A reminder was made about the Beginning with Habitat presentation on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 7:00PM at the Grange. Jennifer Fox will give the overview of the Open Space Plan, Tin Smith will present how the Great Works Land Trust can help with land conservation. The presentation is part of the Historical Society's monthly meeting.

**CHRIS SCHOPPMAYER:** Chris introduced himself as a special agent with NOAA federal fisheries. In his position he covers the area from Kennebunk, Maine to Gloucester, MA. He has been with NOAA for 25 years. His presence was informative and inquiry based as he is involved in a criminal investigation within the town of Eliot. He also served subpoena papers for information in our files.

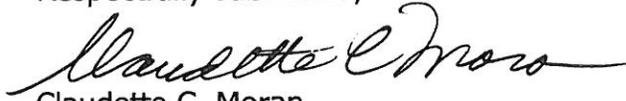
**OLD BUSINESS:** none

ROUND TABLE: none

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 7:00PM at town hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Claudette C. Moran". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Claudette C. Moran  
Secretary, ECC

cc: Eliot town clerk  
Commission Members  
Commission File