

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

**DATE: March 13, 2019  
APPROVED: April 3, 2019**

**OFFICERS:**

**Chair: Kari Moore  
Vice Chair: Kimberly Richards  
Secretary: Lisa Wise  
Treasurer: Lisa Wise**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM at the Eliot Town Hall. Video still not working.

**In attendance:** Lisa Wise, Kari Moore; *absent: Kimberly Richards*

**Public Input:** Tom Dundzila; Mary Wicklund and Kristie Rabasca from Southern Maine Stormwater Working Group

**Review and Approve Past Minutes:** 2/6/19 – No changes. Lisa made a motion to accept the draft minutes. Kari seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Lisa: Submit final minutes.

**Reviewing action items from February 6 minutes:**

- Kari talked to Wendy and Dana re: membership
- Kari and Lisa still need to coordinate on reviewing ECC files at town offices
- Kari submitted ECC permit review comments to the planner (re: Indian River campground and XNG expansion); Kari will keep us in the loop if we hear anything back from Doug or the Planning Board
- Kari connecting with Robert Shapiro re: hosting event at Green Acres
- Kari: Connect with Jeff Tash re: surveying town transfer station property for New England cottontail
- Kari: Connect with Melissa Brandt from York County Soil and Water Conservation District re: Emerald Ash Borer workshop
- Lisa connected with Oliver (Maine Forest Service district forester for York County) – willing to come discuss the town forest management plan with us
- Conservation Commission Goals and Objectives – Schedule a strategic planning session – TBD.

**Southern Maine Stormwater Working Group Presentation – Kristie, Mary**

Kristie was hired by Southern Maine Planning Commission to help the 5 communities (York, Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick, Berwick) to implement the clean water act permit for separated stormwater permit. DEP issues the permit every 5 years. One component of the permit is public education and outreach, including making sure elected officials, boards, and staff are aware. Staff also receives additional training. Kristie meets with any new staff about their role in implementing the permit. Kristina Goodwin (land use assistant) helps track which sites in town are disturbing more than an acre of land – additional sediment and erosion control requirements with those sites (code enforcement officer's inspections). Any stormwater infrastructure components at those sites become subject to a special agreement for the town (for maintenance purposes – no matter what you're installing, you have to

maintain it in perpetuity (if remaining in private hands); if turning over to the town, work with Joel on the maintenance). XNG site is the only one so far.

Handout includes a map of the regulated area in Eliot (based on density); 1-acre disturbance threshold (that triggers additional requirements) does not apply to the nonregulated area. Permit includes construction and post-construction stormwater requirements. Towns are required to map all the stormwater infrastructure and inspect annually (data available on the online mapping system). Joel is starting to install stormwater quality treatment systems for town infrastructure. So far – installed on Pleasant Street (subsurface storage). Next project will be Spinney Creek Road and Hobbs Circle. Generally focusing on stormwater practices that involve less maintenance. Permit was supposed to expire last June, but still in limbo due to questions about how the permit gets administered, how much detail is required, wet weather monitoring (very logistically challenging), and requirements related to water body impairments. On Select Board agenda for tomorrow there is an item for MS4 DEP comments (re: the annual report to DEP re: permit compliance activities).

Yardscaping workshops (also part of the permit requirements): Goal = reduce pesticide and fertilizer use, promote native species. See handout with upcoming events. Mary will send us the flyer so we can share on Facebook. Stormwater Working Group is also interested in partnering with us on future cleanups.

Kari: Dana shared a notice from Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) about their plans for a shoreline survey/interviews between mid-March and November 2019 re: potential pollution sources adjacent to shellfish harvest areas. Kari told Dana to let us know if they need anything from us. Kristie will be attending the surveys. Kari: Share letter from DMR with Lisa for our records.

## **Education/Outreach Initiatives**

### *Speaker series*

- Southern Maine Stormwater Working Group – Yardscaping Workshops (see flyer from Mary)
- Emerald Ash Borer Workshop – Melissa Brandt, mid-April
- Vernal Pool Training – Kari met with Kittery Land Trust and Wells Reserve folks; planning a classroom + field event; April 20, April 28, or May 4; Kari will connect with the Meyers re: a field trip
- Lisa: Reach out to Center for Wildlife folks – Library in May?
- Earth Day/Spring Cleanup – Kari will check in with Joel re: areas to focus on, dates

**Financial Report:** Lisa – no changes to report. Budget committee recommending \$5,000 for land bank (we had requested \$10,000). March 18, 4:30pm, special Select Board meeting to vote on the budget.

**Project Development/Permit Review:** Nothing new. Kari: Share our comments and any feedback received with Lisa for our records.

**Town Conservation Areas:** Kari talked to someone involved with local scouts. An Eagle Scout may be interested in doing a project on the Town Forest (e.g., trail work, benches). Kari follow up. Nothing new from Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT). Kari connect with Patti Mitchem (GWRLT) re: kiosk.

### **Forest Management Plan**

Kari connect with Dana re: visit from district forester – potential dates.

Lisa: Look into the grant opportunity re: trails.

### **Vernal Pools Project Updates and Status**

Kari: Map of potential vernal pools in progress, but not ready to share yet. Need to link to parcels to send out landowner letters. Focus on town forest for now – verify mapping. “Citizen science investigators.” Gulf of Maine Research Institute is adding a vernal pools citizen science effort. Kari: Materials, dipnets, maybe a fee for the training. Each year, state identifies the season for identifying vernal pool significance. Kari will put together volunteer recruitment materials.

### **Roundtable**

#### *1. Commission members*

- a. Kari: Noticed something about Dead Duck Pavilion in Select Board meeting minutes – connect with Dana for more details.

#### *2. Non-commission members*

- a. Kristie: Annie Cox asked if any communities she works with are interested in a pesticide ordinance – South Portland passed it, Falmouth is considering. Kristie will send information.
- b. Lisa asked Kristie if there are any suggestions for improving our stormwater ordinances. Kristie mentioned there are opportunities for improving green infrastructure/low-impact development requirements.

**Next meeting:** April 3, 6:30pm.

Kari made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lisa seconded. All in favor. Adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wise

Secretary, ECC

Cc: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File