

OFFICERS:

Chair: Kari Moore

Vice Chair: Christina Karas

Secretary: Lynn Bublely

Treasurer: Alice Lynch

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY ONLINE. THE CALL-IN INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC WAS PROVIDED BY the Town PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING.

1. 6:30 PM Call to Order and Roll Call via Remote Access:

The meeting was called to order with roll call at 6:34pm by Kari Moore. In attendance: Alice Lynch (Treasurer), Christina Karas (Vice Chair), Kari Moore (Chair), Lisa Wise (Member), Peter Egelston (Member), Carol Castellan (Alternate), Cyndy Camp (Member), Doug Warrender (Alternate), Tomas Dundzila (Public), Melissa Albert (Administrative Assistant- Town of Eliot)

2. Review and approve past minutes

Reviewed March draft meeting minutes: minor edits were made. Lisa made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Kari seconded; minutes were accepted unanimously with edits. Kari will submit amended notes for posting.

3. Public Input – There is no public input at this meeting.

4. Financial Report/Budget – Alice: No budget updates. \$100 donation received from Christina's company. Kari reports that we have money left over in the budget and would like to see the money used prior to the end of the fiscal year. Could this money be used for Education or Outreach. Suggestion is made to use money to purchase trash grabbers for the upcoming Eliot Clean Up Day. We are looking for approximately 20 grabbers. Lynn will check locally for availability. Unanimous vote was taken for the use of \$200 to purchase grabbers.

5. Project Development/ Permit Review

- 0 Pleasant Avenue
 - Dock Installation/ Pier and Float System- Kari asked if the timber stairs were being removed. Peter asks a general question about the criteria that Commission members are to follow when evaluating projects and permits. He asks if it is pertaining to a general sense of environmental impact or are there actual guidelines to go by. Kari suggests starting by looking at the

Shoreland Zoning Ordinance which is posted on the town's website. Kari goes on to explain the permitting process. Other documents to utilize are: National Resource Protection Act, Buffer area, Wetland regulations. Our goal is to understand the natural resource implications for Eliot. Habitat Toolbox is a good resource to reference. Questions to ask yourself: Are there concerns about compliance? Kari asks that we send all questions we have pertaining to projects or permit review to her or Jeff Brubaker. Kari also suggests reviewing the Planning Board agenda for upcoming projects. Also, the Maine Conservation Commission has sample ideas of what a commission is and what a commission does. A proposal was made to formulate a cheat sheet to compile a list of items to review on a project. Google Drive could be used to house these documents. You must have a Gmail address to access Google Drive.

- Cole Avenue- This is a Shoreland Permit application for a dock off a concrete wall. No concerns voiced from the Commission.
- 16 Arc Road- John Shagland will present this project at our May meeting. This is regarding developing in a sensitive wetland area. **Be prepared with your comments.**
- 28-32 Brook Road- – Island Seafood proposal to transition to adult use marijuana retail store and cultivation (within existing building); some site changes (e.g., parking). There is a question as to a water service connection that never got installed? Kari has concerns about the well water as it relates to environmental issues. Are we being mindful of the local water table? Kari suggests going in front of the Town to bring this issue up. Carol asks about impacts on the water supply, utilizing lots of energy with no solar usage.
- 276 HDH 37 Lot 9- Black Hawk Holding- Auto recycling now converting to marijuana processing facility. Wetlands are on the property, used to be an old dump. Could there be surface contamination? What if there is soil contamination? Does the Planning Board recommend soil study? Peter asks if the Planning Board does a phase 1 environmental study? Christina states that a phase 1 environmental study consists of a visual inspection and a history of the property. Alice asks if the septic system that was placed in the 1980's would need to be updated? Also, a comment was made that could potential contaminated ground water be used on products that are grown for human consumption.

6. Education/Outreach

- Invasive Species -Tom continues to work on his monthly 1 pager invasive species fact sheets. January and February have been completed. March and April will focus on Japanese Knotweed. Money in the budget can be utilized for printouts of Tom's documents that can be distributed to local businesses such as Agway, Ace Hardware, and the local Library.
- Spring Clean Up- Eliot Spring Clean Up Day will happen Saturday April 24 with a rain date of Sunday April 25. Carol Castellan is coordinating this effort. She has reached out and connected with the community to get the word out. Eliot Strong, Eliot Online, Families Together, and the Commission Facebook page have been used to get the word out. Lisa will create a Facebook Event and Kari will reach out the PEEPS. We will be using the Litterati App to collect photos and document what trash

has been collected. We will meet at the Eliot Town hall at 9:45 to set up. Kari reached out to the Beach Pea who will be donating baked goods for the volunteers. Discussion was had as to where people will go to collect trash. Kari thought people would most likely head back to their own areas to clean.

- Maine's Big Night- Maine's Big Night and an effort to help Salamanders cross the road. There are sites that are assigned, and Eliot does not have any sites assigned. This could be an event for next year. Kari has adopted a site on her own. People go out when the frogs and salamanders are moving to their breeding grounds and they are assisted to safely cross the road. This is a Citizen Science Project where you adopt a site, collect data, and send it in to the researchers.
- Vernal Pool Assessment- Commission does have Vernal Pool identification cards and can be brought to the Eliot Clean Up Day event for those who are interested.
- Online training- Lisa presents a garlic mustard challenge opportunity: Garlic Mustard Challenge naturegroupie.org/experiences/online-training-join-garlic-mustard-challenge.
- Kari will put together a planning review document to be used by the Commission.
- Grant application- Jeff Brubaker will help with the process regarding the Spinney Creek watershed plan should the Conservation Commission decide to move forward with the grant. We should be looking at grant projects so we can be prepared and ready when they come up.

7. Round table – no Round Table items discussed

8. Next regular business meeting May 5, 2021

9. Carol made a motion to end the meeting, Alice seconded. All in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bublely

Secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File