

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

DATE: July 7, 2021

OFFICERS:

Chair: Kari Moore

Vice Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Lynn Bubley

Treasurer: Alice Lynch

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON.

1. 6:35 PM Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order with roll call at 6:35pm by Kari Moore.

In attendance: Kari Moore (Chair), Alice Lynch (Treasurer), Lisa Wise (Member), Peter Egelston (Member), Carol Castellon (Alternate), Lynn Bubley (Secretary), Tomas Dundzila (Public), Cyndy Camp (Member)

Absent: Doug Warrender (Alternate)

2. Public Input

No public input at this meeting

3. Review and approve past minutes:

Reviewed June draft meeting minutes: Minor edits made. Alice Lynch made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Cyndy Camp seconded the motion; Minutes were accepted unanimously with edits. Kari will submit amended notes for posting.

4. Financial Report/ Budget

a. \$100 check that was gifted to the Conservation Commission has gone into the Land Bank.

b. Carol Castellon has received reimbursement for the grabbers that she purchased for Eliot Clean Up Day.

c. Conservation Commission did receive \$5000 towards the Land Bank from the Town of Eliot.

d. Discussion was had as to what to use Conservation Commission funding for, Maps, lamination, Invasive Species Education?

5. Project Development/ Permit Review

a. Solar Array Odiorne Lane- This project will be scaled back from its original plan due to a policy that was passed regarding renewable energy. Jeff Brubaker states the sketch plan might need to be re-submitted. Kari Moore attended the Planning Board meeting. This is a 60-acre parcel in which 19 acres will be developed with solar panels. Commission posed the question why are they looking at

developing forested wetland and not in an open field? There was an offer by the developer to place pollinator habitat in between the panel rows, however, this is forested wetland and it does not make sense. Possibly some of the land could go into conservation land. The developer had both a vernal pool study and wetland study. Developer states he is aware of the vernal pool on site and will be able to avoid. Previous owner has clear cut some of the land and has interest in cutting more. Peter asks about the politics around solar development. Does it get pushed through because it is deemed a renewable project? What is the impact at ground level? It deserves the scrutiny of any other project.

b. 26 Addison Lane- This is a pile supported dock installation in a waterfowl habitat. There does not seem to be a huge impact to the area. The accessway will be reduced from 6' to 4'. There was a Tree Score plan (50-41 Tree Score). If the DEP approves the removal of trees can the Conservation Commission override them? Conservation Commission is only an advisor. We could send a letter to the DEP if we felt strongly that tree removal would impact the local area. There is a no cut window between June and July to aid the population of the Northern Long Eared Bat. Army Corp restricts cutting to the Fall. There will be a Public Hearing on July 27.

c. Pleasant Street House replacement- No issues noted on this project.

d. Storm water meeting- Kari did not see any information posted about this meeting. Storm water ordinance did get approved at Town Meeting.

e. Peter contacted Public Works regarding the temporary plastic yellow line markers that are used while waiting for permanent lines to be laid. They will no longer be using these markers as they end up as trash on the side of the road.

f. Email received from Hayden Pierson regarding 770 Main Street. He has concerns about this historic building and reached out to the Conservation Commission. We are not responsible for historic buildings.

6. Education/ Outreach

a. A suggestion is made to look at other towns in Maine to see how they handle invasive species. Nancy Olmstead could be a good resource. Alice presented information and provided a handout she collected from other towns and how they handle their invasive species disposal (Harpwell, Kennebunkport, Kennebunk, Kittery, York, Berwick, Yarmouth). Do we want to make guidelines for residents, do we want to reach out to Nancy Olmstead? Tom Dundzila met with Nancy 2 years ago and has created fact sheets on invasives, do these sheets need to be resurrected? Do we need to work with other towns on this project? Pictorial seasonal identification would be helpful.

b. Route 236 Turtle Tracking- Tom reports that the Audubon Society and the State of Maine are doing the Maine Roadkill Survey. FW is the lead reptile biologist. The turtles are being fitted with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and being tracked electronically as they cross under Route 236.

Derek Moore from Kittery will be following these turtles. May and June are the times when these turtles looking for nesting spots. Could this be a Springtime project for the students of Eliot. Derek was looking into reaching out to the Middle Schoolers. Kari will reach out. Turtle crossing information could be posted on Conservation Commission's Facebook page.

7. Round Table Site occurred at Goodwin Forest with Jill Crosby and others at Great Works Land Trust. There is a new loop at Shorey Brook. Peter went out and walked the parcel. The Great Works trail stops short of Shorey Creek. Does Eliot have an interest in partnering with GWLT in creating a trail to connect? Jill Crosby does have a Forest Management plan in place. There is grant money available and this could be used for the beginning of a trail creation. The forest is mostly Hemlock and the Woolly adelgid is decimating the Hemlock trees. Great Works is cutting Hemlocks to keep the forest healthy. There are some beech trees in the forest. Peter asks how the town of Eliot acquires parcels for conservation land and about creating trails. Both town forests, Johnson Lane and York Pond, have a forest management plan prepared. The plans have not been active as of late. How can the Conservation Commission resurrect this plan? Kari spoke with an arborist at Great Works who could assist us in the plan. ATV recreation use has been looked at for these public lands. There has been some damage to the forested areas due to ATV usage in the York Pond area. This was discussed with former town manager and could become a legal issue and would need to go to the public. How can we include the recreation and forest management plan into the Open Space Plan? Kari will reach out to Jeff Brubaker to come and present the Open Space plan. Kim Richards reports someone withdrawing water from a local brook to hydroseed. There are currently no restrictions or regulations against withdrawing water for small homeowners

Meeting is adjourned at 8:29 PM

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday August 4, 2021, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bublely

Secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File