

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

DATE: February 2, 2022

OFFICERS:

Chair: Kari Moore

Vice Chair: Lisa Wise

Secretary: Peter Egelston

Treasurer: Lynn Bubley

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM.

1. 6:30 PM Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order with roll call at 6:31 pm by Kari Moore.

In attendance: Kari Moore (Chair), Cyndy Camp (Member), Peter Egelston (Secretary), Lynn Bubley (Treasurer), Lisa Wise (Vice Chairman)

2. Public Input

Tim Pickett, resident of 143 Dow Highway, Josh Seymour, from Green Truck Farms, interested in purchasing land owned by Mr. Pickett for a marijuana dispensary.

Achieving the required 500 foot setback from a residential property across the highway would require filling a section of wooded wetlands. What would the Commission's position be on this?

Kari: the Commission serves in an advisory capacity and would advise against this and would recommend seeking another approach. A setback is not a good enough reason to fill wetlands.
Cyndy, Lynn, Peter spoke in concurrence with this position.

3. Financial

Everything the Commission requested was put in the town budget except the land bank request was reduced from \$15,000 to \$5,000. Dues have been paid to Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) and Maine Association of Conservation Commission.

4. Review and approve past minutes:

Minutes from January 5th meeting submitted -approved with some minor edits.

5. Project Development/Permit Review/Planning Studies

The Odiorne Lane project was approved by the Planning Board with a number of conditions, to be contained in the Notice of Decision, which is being finalized.

Karl Strohmeyer from the US Fish and Wildlife Service is very excited at the prospect of the undeveloped parcel being put into conservation. Mr. Strohmeyer is pursuing the acquisition of the parcel for the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition, as a result of the process, this project has a smaller footprint, with no direct impacts to wetlands.

6. Education and Outreach

Kari: The Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) is hosting a number of upcoming hikes, some of which will take place in Eliot, including one on Saturday, February 12 at the Goodwin Forest trail and the 26th at Rocky Hill, abutting the Eliot Town Forest (York Pond Area).

The GWRLT annual meeting is to take place on February 17 at 7pm as a virtual webinar. There is no charge to attend. In addition, that evening there will be a webinar featuring Aram Calhoun, the University of Maine's vernal pool scientist on the topic of vernal pools and climate change.

GWRLT is also doing a vernal pool citizen science blitz. Kari also mentioned some other citizen science projects, including Big Night projects, of which there are no sites in Eliot.

A vote was taken to authorize the expenditure of \$45 for Lynn to register for and attend a webinar hosted by the Maine Municipal Association concerning vernal pools, brown tail moths and emerald ash borer. All voted in favor.

Cyndy asked if the Commission ever does Earth Day activities.

Kari: Normally, the spring cleanup is scheduled to coincide with Earth Day (April 22)

Kari: is thinking of inviting Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's lead biologist on reptiles, Derek Yorks, to the March or April meeting to speak about turtles.

Lisa: National Invasive Species Awareness Week is February 28 through March 4.

Can the ECC do more in response to invasive species?

Lisa: What happened to the vernal pools mapping that was done?

Kari: the working group did not want it included on the town's GIS site (because it wasn't finalized), but did want it used as a "stepping point" for people to go out and confirm vernal pools.

Lisa: It can be a useful tool for the Commission to use for a cursory look when considering development applications.

Kari will look further into this.

7. Round Table

81 Peter: Can the town cleanup expand its scope to include beyond roadways - Dead Duck boat launch
82 and park, for instance?

83 Kari: Blue Ocean Society cleanups have been done there along the shore. Also, some people clean up
84 the beach routinely. We may look at other areas as well - trails, for instance, which could be
85 combined with an educational effort.

86
87 Kari: The town manager has asked the ECC to put together a letter of support (using a provided
88 template) for a Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission Community Resilience
89 Service Provider Partnership grant pertaining to climate impact. Letter due on 2/15/22. (Kari will
90 provide the template for these minutes). All members voted in favor of this. Kari will complete letter
91 and forward to appropriate destination. (A copy of the letter is appended to these minutes.)

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93 Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday March 2, at 6:30 PM.

94
95 Kari passed along thanks the ECC has received from the Town Planner, the Planning Board and the US
96 Fish and Wildlife Service for the work it is doing.

97
98 The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

99
100 Respectfully submitted,

101
102 Peter Egelston

103 Secretary

104 CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File

Eliot Conservation Commission
1333 State Road
Eliot, Maine 03903

February 10, 2022

State of Maine

Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and Future

Brian.ambrette@maine.gov

Regarding: Community Resilience Service Provider Partnership Grant

To the Community Resilience Partnership,

The Town of Eliot Conservation Commission (ECC) is pleased to offer our strong support for the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission's proposal to serve as Eliot's service provider. Our community leaders and decision-makers know that we face an increased risk of impacts and damage from climate change. Like many communities in Maine, Eliot is stretched thin as the Town tries to address climate impacts while managing the pressing demands of delivering municipal services.

Eliot is eager to obtain assistance from SMPDC to enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership and participate in the Southern Maine 2022 Cohort. The proposed project will greatly help our community identify, prioritize, and begin to implement community resilience projects. Participation in this diverse cohort of communities offers an invaluable opportunity for peer learning and collaboration to address regional challenges and amplify the impact of resilience efforts.

Eliot will serve as a partner and active participant in SMPDC's service provider cohort. We anticipate appropriate staff members attending project meetings, participating in regional workshops, and supporting the project team in communication efforts to our community, elected officials, and volunteer board members. The ECC looks forward to participating in this partnership to promote strategies that may benefit the natural resources in our community. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Kari S. Moore

Chair, Eliot Conservation Commission

Copy: Town Manager

Planning Board/Department

Conservation Commission