

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

DATE: March 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. 6:31 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

None

3. Review and approve past minutes:

Minutes from March 3rd meeting were submitted and approved with some minor edits.

4. Financial:

No financial updates, as reported by Lynn B. Peter E. asked if funds that remain unused in one category can be reallocated to a different category. Lynn will follow up and ask if this is possible.

5. Project Development/Permit Review/Planning Studies

No projects to review this month. Only some minor projects are before the Planning Board, none that pertain to the Eliot Conservation Commission.

There are no updates on the status of the Comprehensive Plan. Kari M. will attend next Tuesday's Planning Board meeting.

6. Education and Outreach

On April 23 Tom Dundzila led a guided walk, hosted by the Sierra Club, through the Eliot Town forest. The first thing that was discovered is that there is no place to park on the Eliot side, only on the South Berwick side. It was suggested that people need to reach out to the Town to find a way to rectify this.

41 According to Mr. Dundzila, eight to ten people participated in the walk. The hike was “awesome,”
42 though a bit buggy, especially as one got close to York Pond and wetlands. He remarked that it is a
43 worthwhile property to explore and proposed doing the hike again, the next time looking at it from a
44 foresters’s perspective. He also suggested that the town’s 12 to 13 year old forest management plan
45 needs to be looked at, and ask if the town is interested in investing in managing this property or
46 letting things grow as they currently are. Without management, the Town Forest land will decline in
47 value.

48
49 Kari M. mentioned visting the site with Lisa W. a few years prior with the county (or state?) forester.
50 She pointed out that managing the Town Forest should be part of the town’s Comprehensive Plan.
51 She mentioned that managing the Town Forest raises logistical questions, like how would trucks gain
52 access to the property?

53
54 Tom Dundzila noted that managing small parcels may not be financially attractive to a forester. This
55 was followed by a discussion about the various parcels that make up the Town Forest and access to
56 those parcels, followed by a discussion about the trails on the property.

57
58 Peter E. suggested that there may be an opportunity to partner with other public or even private
59 landowners, to get more attractive efficiencies. Kari M. asked who would take this on and suggested
60 that the ECC wait to see if this can be part of the Comprehensive Plan. Peter E. suggested that the
61 ECC advocate making land management part of the Comprehensive Plan discussion.

62
63 Kari M. asked if the ECC should have a table at the Town Meeting on June 14th? Peter E. volunteered
64 to help out during the day. It was agreed that the ECC will plan to have a table.

65
66 A proposal was made to make National Public Lands Day the ECC’s theme for its table on Eliot
67 Festival Day, which happens to be on the same date – September 24, 2022.

68
69 Spring Cleanup Day is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 7th from 8:30 to 11:30 am. People
70 will assemble in the parking lot at Eliot Commons. Notices have been posted on social media. The
71 focus this time will be on Route 236. There will an attempt to keep aluminum cans and glass bottles,
72 but not plastic, separate for recycling.

73
74 Lynn B. will pick up 25 safety vests at DPW and will purchase more vests and trash grabbers at
75 Harbor Freight. All ECC members voted in favor of a motion authorizing Lynn B. to spend up to \$300
76 on gear for the spring cleanup.

77
78 Peter E. asked if the Litterati app will be used this time? Kari M. replied that it hasn’t been
79 emphasized this time.

Kari M. mentioned that the Eliot Connects group is interested in meeting with the ECC to see how they can help. She suggested that this happen at a future meeting.

Dereck Yorks has been invited to attend the ECC's next meeting to speak about turtles.

7. Round Table -

Peter E. asked about the status of the Solar Ordinance and was informed that it has been finalized and will be ready for the June 14th Town Meeting. A copy of the ordinance can be found on the Planning Board's website as well as on the June 14th ballot.

Kari M. brought up an item of citizen outreach pertaining to invasive species, specifically, getting rid of bittersweet that has been removed from one's yard. Steve Robinson from DPW made the same recommendation that Kari did: bag it securely and place it in the bulky waste dumpster at the transfer station. Should this approach be the standard practice? Kari M. will reach out to DPW for clarification. If it is, the ECC and Town should advertise this to the public.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday June 1, at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Egelston

Secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File