

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

DATE: October 5, 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 6:33 pm by Kari Moore.

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

2. Public Input:

There was no public input at this meeting.

3. Review and approve past minutes:

Minutes from the 9/7/22 meeting reviewed and approved, with minor edits.

4. Financial:

Lynn emailed Mike Sullivan and Kristin McNulty for an update on the ECC budget. \$1,520 was allocated for FY 2023, same as for 2022. This was not broken down by line item. Some discussion took place regarding the allocation of these funds, which will be the same as last year.

Kari asked if there was \$5,000 allocated for the Land Bank. With respect to the Land Bank, which supposedly contains \$29,003.03, Lynn quoted an email she had received from Mike Sullivan: "Lynn, there was \$5,000 in the land bank reserve fund. However, our auditors have pointed out our reserve funds were never set up properly and the appropriate votes, taken a town meeting for those reserves to retain previous years applications. Essentially, this means the only money in the land bank is what was appropriated in fiscal year 23 – \$5,000 – and perhaps the previous year, which was also 5000. This applies to all reserve funds. We are working to rectify the situation and will be developing a strategy to present for the June referendum to restore as much of those reserve balances as possible. We appreciate everyone's patience on this matter as we work towards a solution. It is an unfortunate consequence of trying to straighten out procedures and practices which have been errant for years. The auditor made an initial presentation at the last Select Board meeting.

I encourage anyone who has questions to watch that to gain a better understanding of the dilemma.”

In response to this shocking and disappointing news, there was a lengthy discussion among commission members about the “loss” of these funds, which had been voted on each year. It was decided to follow up with Mike Sullivan for further clarification on this and to get a better understanding of how and when these funds will be restored.

5. Recap of Eliot Festival Days

People really liked the Hiking Brochure that was given out and is available on the town’s website and the ECC Facebook page. Kari wondered if it could be added as an overlay on the town’s GIS map.

It was also suggested that bike racks would help make Eliot more bicycle friendly.

6. Project Development/Permit Review/Planning Studies

Commission members looked at the change of use proposal for 7 McClellan Ln., which is in a resource protection zone. The application is for adding a retail use to the currently approved marijuana products manufacturing use, which is proposed to take place in several stages:

- The construction of a two-story retail and office building.

- A new stormwater and septic system.

- The expansion of the existing parking lot.

It was not known at the time if this project will be on the ECC’s November 2 agenda.

Kari had no update on the town’s Comprehensive Plan update.

As part of the Climate Resiliency Project, the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission will host a community workshop at the Bahai Center at Green Acres on October 25th. All are encouraged to attend.

Information regarding the Climate Resiliency Project can be found on the Planning Department’s home page.

Jeff Brubaker plans to be at the public library on October 22nd to answer questions from those who can not attend on the 25th.

7. Outreach

The Fall Cleanup will take place at 11:00 am on October 22 at Dead Duck. Some discussion took place regarding the logistics for that event.

Kari suggested that we initiate a speaker series by inviting someone to give a talk at the library about climate change and rising sea levels, perhaps someone who is involved in the Climate Resiliency Partnership. Peter suggested that Cameron Wake may be able to recommend someone from UNH, or may be interested in speaking himself. The Center for Wildlife and White Pine were also mentioned as possible sources for speakers. It was suggested that we continue discussion on this topic at the November meeting.

8. Round Table

Kari spoke with Pat Robinson, South Berwick's Conservation Commission Chair, on Festival Day about ATV issues the town is having in their town forest. This conversation made Kari think of opportunities to stay in touch with and even work jointly with South Berwick and other conservation commissions.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday November 2, at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Egelston

Secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File