

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

DATE: December 7, 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:

Mr. David Marshall, an Eliot resident, sat in on the meeting, "checking things out," as he may be interested in joining the ECC.

3. Review and approve past minutes:

Minutes from the 11/2/22 meeting reviewed and approved, with minor edits.

4. Financial:

The ECC budget discussed at last month's meeting was submitted to the Town Manager, who will submit it to the town's Budget Committee.

The glitch with the town's reserve accounts, which has impacted the balance in the Land Bank account, was explained to Mr. Marshall.

5. Project Development/Permit Review/Planning Studies

No applications were reviewed. Peter E. asked about the status of the "Villages on Great Brook" development. Kari M. said there was no quorum for the November 15 Planning Board, and that it was not covered at the meeting the night before (December 6). It was agreed that the developers should be invited to present to the ECC at its January meeting.

Some discussion followed regarding ordinance amendments in front of the Planning Board, in particular the Town's response to the new state law – LD 2003 - pertaining to increasing housing density. ECC members, at this time, do not yet know a lot about this law, or its impact on Eliot.

Lisa W. spoke about the Climate Resiliency project:

Jeff Brubaker has updated the town's website with more information about the project, including the results of the 10/25/22 community workshop held at Green Acres.

The Municipal Resolution to join the project will be presented to the Select Board for a vote at its December 15th meeting. The ECC will draft a statement of support.

Abbie Sherwin from the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission would like to schedule a meeting with Jeff B. and Lisa W. to discuss grant opportunities for the town. (Grant applications are due in March.)

The town's Comprehensive Plan update was discussed:

Comprehensive Plan Committee sub-committees are meeting this month.

Kari M. attended the Land Use sub-committee last night. At that meeting, she brought conservation concerns to the table. She suggested that resources and wildlife protection overlays be added to the town's GIS map. Kari shared a habitat toolbox with the sub-committee members, which she plans to share with ECC members as well.

There was some discussion regarding material available to Comprehensive Plan Committee members in the Shared folder that members have been given access to.

Mr. Marshall asked if climate change is being factored into the updated Comprehensive Plan, and some discussion followed regarding the ways that it is.

6. Education/Outreach

Lisa W. said that the Center for Wildlife is on board for doing a public program at the library. There is a choice between their "New England Natives" or their "Owls" programs. The ECC members expressed their preference for the former. The cost of either of these programs is \$250/hour, plus mileage, with a total estimated at \$275.

A vote was taken to fund this in the amount of \$280 to cover the cost of the program. All voted in favor.

It was suggested that the best date would be during the week of February 20, during school vacation.

Kari M. suggested that speakers from the University of Maine's Big Night program might be another option for a presentation. She has spoken with Greg LeClair, who runs the program, which monitors the movement of frogs and salamanders across roads. Eliot currently has no identified sites. Kari asked him if we could set something up this year and they discussed some possible locations. She would have a conversation with the Fire and Police Departments regarding public safety.

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The Great Works Regional Land Trust’s Wednesday Walks at the Goodwin Forest was mentioned.

7. Round Table

None

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday January 4, at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Egelston

Secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File