

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

DATE: March 6, 2024

OFFICERS:

Chair: Kari Moore

Vice Chair: Lisa Wise

Secretary: Lynn Bublely

Treasurer: Peter Egelston

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE

1. 6:00 PM Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting is called to order by Lisa Wise with roll call at 6:02PM. In attendance: Kari Moore (Chair-remote), Lisa Wise (Vice Chair), Peter Egelston (Treasurer), Lynn Bublely (Secretary), Richie Kaknes (Member), Dan Maxton (Community Engagement Coordinator for Great Works Regional Land Trust) absent: David Marshall (Member)

2. Public Input:

No public input at this meeting.

3. Review and approve past minutes:

The minutes from the Special Budget meeting on November 27, 2023, are reviewed and accepted. Peter Egelston moved to accept the minutes; Lisa Wise seconded the motion. The minutes are unanimously approved.

The minutes from the January 3, 2024, ECC are approved with edits. Lisa Wise moved to accept the minutes; Richie Kaknes seconded the motion. The minutes are unanimously approved.

The minutes from the February 7, 2024, ECC will be reviewed at the April meeting.

4. Project Development/ Permit Review/ Planning Studies

a. 708 River Road- Eliot Conservation Commission (ECC) comments were sent to Jeff Brubaker by Kari Moore (attached). ECC commented on the extensive wetlands and potential vernal pool on the site. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) determined the vernal pool did not meet the definition of significance and is not protected. There is a condition for an “in lieu” fee of \$1500 per lot to go towards the Murray Rowe recreation area located on River Road. There will be a public hearing on Tuesday March 12, 2024, where a decision will be made regarding this parcel. Applicants did agree to protection of the wetlands resources. Peter- Why was Murray Rowe recreation area the recipient of the fee? Kari- The applicant did not want to have an open space subdivision. Instead of having the open space requirements, they are providing this “in lieu” fee for the improvement of the recreational area.

b. Other Projects- No other projects presented.

c. Comprehensive Plan Update- The Comprehensive Plan group is meeting Monday March 11, 2024, at 5:30PM for anyone interested. Both Lisa Wise and Peter Egelston are on the subcommittee. The natural resource and recreation inventories are online for review and will be used to develop goals and strategies for the plan.

d. Floodplain Ordinance Revision (Provide comments to the Planning Board) The state has a requirement that the town floodplain ordinance must meet the federal standards by July 2024 or risk losing access to FEMA flood insurance. Kari felt the changes being proposed to the existing floodplain ordinance were relatively minor. Peter said there was not much to discuss. If we are to remain in the National Flood Insurance Program, we will need to pass the ordinance. The ordinance is crafted to follow State legislation. ECC has no comments to offer. Kari will send to the ECC a link to the local updated flood maps.

5. Financial Update

No financial update at this meeting. Peter asks if there are ways to promote Earth Day? Are there items that are both promotional and sustainable to get the word out? Could we somehow bring efforts to the local schools, Eliot Elementary School, and Marshwood Middle School, both housed in Eliot. Kari will look into what and how we can spend the commission's money. Lisa will reach out to Eliot Elementary School; Kari will reach out to Marshwood Middle School.

6. Open Space Plan Update

Lisa met with Abbie Sherwin and Paul Schumacher in February. Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) continues to work on draft maps. Lisa is coordinating with Jeff on scheduling public input opportunities in conjunction with Comprehensive Plan engagement.

7. Education/ Outreach

a. Memory Walk (Aging in Place)- Kari spoke with Jenny Isler regarding ECC's interest in supporting the Memory Walk.

b. Earth Day Event Partnership with Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT)- Dan Maxton (Community Engagement Coordinator) is working on coordinating events across all towns in the land trust's region. Dan is present at tonight's meeting. He has stewardship volunteers willing to collaborate with the local communities in their efforts on Earth Day which is April 20, 2024. Dan has offered support from GWRLT to Eliot in working on projects that are not GWRLT lands. He is willing to support us in whichever event we choose for Earth Day. Southern Maine Stormwater Working Group (SMSWG) is doing a roadside cleanup project on April 20th on route 236 in South Berwick. ECC has been sponsoring roadside clean-ups for the past several years. The thought being to choose a different project due to the drop in the number of volunteers. Kari suggests the York Pond area as a clean-up site, or trail work in our town forests, those being Johnson Lane and York Pond area.. There would be options to get equipment to these sites. ECC could speak with Mike Sullivan about accessibility for this project. Kari states there is currently no trail on Johnson Lane. This would be an opportunity to create one. Lisa will tour Rocky Hills to assess potential projects; Kari will tour as well. Dan will leave it to the ECC to decide upon a project. He will provide 5-7 volunteers along with

members of the Sierra Club. April 20th also falls on a school vacation. Volunteer numbers could be low. Peter- likes the idea of working in the town forest. Feels it will raise the profile of our public lands. Dan informs us that GWRLT continues to look for a board member from Eliot. Kari will put this out on social media for potential volunteers. Dan is also looking for GWRLT community volunteers. Kari will provide Dan's contact information to Eliot Connects.

c. ECC Newsletter – Lisa is in the process of drafting the next ECC newsletter. The newsletter will highlight public events this Spring (Big Night, Earth Day). Lisa will reach out to Mike for approval to send.

d. Regional Initiatives-

Invasive Species – Richie was unable to attend the most recent meeting.

Piscataqua Regional Monitoring Collaborative – Peter reports difficulty in getting communities in Maine involved.

8. Round Table

Kari informs us of the upcoming renovation work on the Town Hall. This could have an effect on our meeting space.

9. Next Regular Business Meeting

Lisa motioned to adjourn the meeting; Kari seconded the motion. Meeting unanimously adjourned at 7:24 PM. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday April 3, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bublely

Secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File