

OFFICIAL MINUTES:

**Eliot Conservation Commission
Eliot, Maine 03903**

DATE: June 7, 2017

APPROVED: September 6, 2017

OFFICIAL MINUTES: Business Meeting

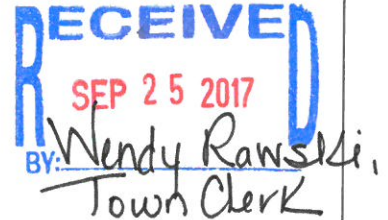
OFFICERS:

Chairman: Kimberly Richards

Vice chairman: Glenn Crilley

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: vacant



The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM at the Eliot Town Hall.

In attendance:

Kimberly Richards, Glenn Crilley, Andrew Laforge. Alternate: Connie Weeks (voting member).

Absent:

None.

Past Minutes:

Minutes for May 3, 2017 were reviewed and accepted as written.

Financial report:

An invoice was submitted to the Town Financial Officer to pay annual membership dues to the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions (MEACC) in the amount of \$150.00. This leaves the membership/dues balance of the Commission's budget at \$250.00.

Kim will contact Great Works Regional Land Trust to inquire about membership dues that may be owed.

Correspondence- York River Wild & Scenic Partnership:

The York River Wild & Scenic Partnership sent a letter to the ECC inviting members to attend their next meeting where they will continue to share their progress and gather information from those in attendance on the importance of the river and its watershed. Connie said she would be willing to attend the meeting with Kim.

Kim's meeting with the Town Manager:

Kim met with the Town Manager to get answers on a few questions the Commission had. It was asked whether there is a possibility of placing on the Town tax bill a line would ask taxpayers if they would be willing to contribute an amount of their choosing to

45 the land bank (much like the line at the bottom of the State income tax form). The Town
46 Manager verified that this would not be possible.

47
48 The Town Manager was also asked if the Board of Selectmen was required to submit
49 grant requests to organizations seeking funds for the land bank. He said that they are
50 not required to do so, and that the Conservation Commission may apply for such grants
51 ourselves. He also encouraged the Conservation Commission to seek funds from local
52 banks, as they are required by the Community Reinvestment Act to cycle certain
53 amounts back into their local communities. One of the Conservation Commission
54 members asked whether we would require a town vote to spend any money that is
55 acquired from grants since it would not be from taxes. Kim will forward the question on
56 to the Town Manager.

57
58 Kim also asked the Town Manager what he suggests the Commission do to keep
59 updated about new and developing building applications in town. While the Commission
60 has received information on new projects, a response with recommendations and
61 concerns was requested before the Commission's next scheduled meeting. The Town
62 Manager suggested that a Commission member keep tabs via the e-alert system on
63 upcoming meetings and agendas over the internet. Andrew said he will look into the e-
64 alerts and will keep an eye on the agendas as they are posted.

65
66 Kim will ask the Town Manager about how to go about submitting grant applications and
67 whether or not it has to be done by the Board of Selectmen or if the Conservation
68 Commission can do it ourselves.

69
70 **Goodwin Farm:**

71 Kim will see if she can get away from work for a while on Saturday to distribute fliers at
72 the Transfer Station with Connie.

73
74 **Election Day (June 13) table:**

75 The Commission decided to offer the following information at the table set up at the
76 polls: Neonicotinoids and the danger they pose to bees; common invasive species in
77 town; focus areas of ecological concern in town.

78
79 **Fundraising for the Land Bank:**

80 A suggestion was made to check in with the Maine Association of Conservation
81 Commissions to see what other Commissions in Maine do to fund their land banks.
82 The question was raised as to whether or not the Town could put a check box on the
83 Town's property tax bills asking if residents would like to donate any amount to the land
84 bank. Kim will ask whether or not this possible.

85
86 **Development projects review:**

87 The Commission is having a difficult time trying to stay on top of the development and
88 building projects that are being applied for. With the Commission only meeting once a
89 month, it's proven to be difficult trying to get the information to all of the Commission
90 members for review and then to turn in a response in a timely manner. It was asked that
91 Commission members consider what else could be done to make sure that the Planning
92 Board and any other pertinent Town officials receive our feedback. It was suggested to
93 ask the Town Manager for suggestions.

94
95 **Old business:**

96 Nothing to discuss at this time.

97
98 **Round table:**

99 Nothing was shared.

100
101 **Next meeting:**

102 Wednesday July 5, 2017 at 7:00PM at the Eliot Town Hall.

103
104 Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

105
106 Respectfully submitted,

107
108 Kimberly Richards
109 Chair, ECC

110
111 Cc: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File

