

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

DATE: February 14, 2018
APPROVED: March 21, 2018

OFFICERS:

Chairman: Kimberly Richards
Vice chairman: Glenn Crilley
Secretary: Lisa Graichen
Treasurer: Kari Moore

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM at the Eliot Town Hall.

In attendance: MEMBERS – Kimberly Richards, Lisa Graichen, Kari Moore, Connie Weeks, Jess O'Donoghue (member); Jack Murphy (Liaison to Select Board)

Public input: None

Review and Approve Past Minutes:

- Connie made a motion to accept the 12/6/17 minutes as written, Kari seconded; unanimously accepted – minutes approved as written; Lisa will submit to Wendy

Financial Report: Kari: No changes to report.

Commission Bylaws:

- Lisa circulate the "Ordinance Governing Municipal Boards, Commissions, and Committees"
- Connie made a motion to submit these bylaws, Jess seconded, all in favor; Kim will submit

2018 budget request meeting recap

- Connie was very upset, felt no support for this committee, attitude was horrible. Kim felt relieved, didn't feel as much hostility. Lisa felt deflated. Think they'll recommend our entire operational budget; the land bank is the question.
- Kari: I learned I need to be more informed/prepared on the land bank; better prepared – this is what we have in mind; need to figure out how to get that message across
- Kim: Campaign for our land bank, getting it out to people more
- Helpful to have numbers (e.g., PREP State of Our Estuaries report numbers Lisa shared)
- Lisa: More strategic planning and communications work over the next year
- Keep the land bank as a regular agenda item
- Lisa: PREP State of Our Estuaries report – conservation maps at the town hall?
- Citizens Option meeting as long as enough people show up in time, otherwise it'll be just an information meeting → all attend that meeting, get there early
 - April 2, 7pm, @ Marshwood Middle School Cafeteria

- Post on Facebook, stress to be there early!
- Need to work on a justification for the land bank! Kari and Lisa
- Wish there were some way of giving examples of possible areas that could be conserved
 - Lisa: Connect with Mt A to Sea, Great Works Regional Land Trust
 - Kim: Look into what other towns put into their land banks

Vernal pool project

- Kari: Working with Karen Young (Mt. A to Sea) and Christine Bennett (Kittery Land Trust) to develop a partnership; Mt. A to Sea looking at a regional effort; one of the big issues is the mapping – very expensive, state is willing to pitch in some money but it's not enough for the whole region; Karen is pulling together some grant applications (Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund) – Increasing Conservation of Vernal Pool Landscapes in Southern Maine – goal = map potential vernal pools, train volunteers and start a citizen science effort, use that info for planners and conservation commissions to support informed decision-making; all 6 towns in the Mt. A to Sea region are participating, some towns are further ahead (Kittery, maybe York/Wells have done mapping, South Berwick has not); start a small effort to get people excited about it – town parcels, GWRLT parcels, any private properties (Jess, Connie); Karen is pulling together landowner request letter, post on Facebook page
- Share flyer with scout troops, community involvement through schools (Kari can connect)
- Glenn?
- Number of properties – depends on number of volunteers
- Connie: Check out Johnson Lane, land trust properties
- Christine checked with Darrell (GWRLT) – he didn't think they'd done inventories on the GWRLT properties, didn't think Douglas Woods has any, not sure about the others
- Town – any info from past permit applications?
- Connie: Parcel off 236, Indian River camp – there are 3 or 4 vernal pools
- Jess's property abuts Johnson Lane, can contact neighbors
- Vernal pool training 4/24 from 3-6pm @ Wells NERR – Karen is getting a flyer together
- Look into MEACC
- Town Forest could be a great place to start
- Other potentially interested group – Bahai – they own a fair amount of land; volunteers?
- Any other conservation easements we could access?
- Jack's property? (Brixham Road off Goodwin Road)
- Kari: Schedule a meeting with Christine and Karen – preplanning meeting
 - Established a subcommittee of the vernal pool project = Kari, Lisa, Jess
- Present to the Select Board (goal = before the Citizens Option meeting)
- Citizens Option meeting – good opportunity to share the flyer and other opportunities
- Kim: Revamp the vernal pool pamphlet

Development Projects Review

- Ladyslipper project: Kim read letter from Roseann – didn't see any blatant issues
 - Planning Board meeting – public hearing = opportunity to ask questions

- Beginning with Habitat maps
- Jess: Haven't found cottontails there but know there are some in the area
- Kari: Have to consider what's around it, how fragmented is it
- Looking at the plans:
 - Kari: State – 75' wetland setback, 25' buffer → that's what we want to look at, do they have wetland mapping? Designated significant wildlife habitat – natural resource protection act → maybe one of the permits. Want to be able to look at the permits that are coming to the town.
 - Comments to DEP or Planning Board? Review the permits when they get to the town. Make sure they've done their homework – inventoried the wetlands, etc. Find out if it's designated significant habitat (Jess look into it, send to Kim to reach out). Also check out stormwater. Find out what public comment period is, go from there.
- Jess: Russel Plant is familiar with the developer, said Eliot residents should be careful
- Lisa attended 1/16 Planning Board meeting – Greg mentioned the request from ECC to be kept in the loop on applications; Lisa also mentioned that to Becca in a recent conversation
- Want to continue pattern of attending Planning Board meetings

Old business:

- **Great Hill Gravel** – Lisa talked to Becca, she said she couldn't find any information
 - Jess has photos from November 3, 2017; it's been very active, blasting and dumping (asphalt); AG office had visited in August and said it was cleaned up
 - Kim: Concerning – photos need to be submitted to CEO (add a date)
- **Membership Update:** Ernie and Andrew resignations went through; two new applications weren't addressed at the Select Board because they couldn't attend → next meeting (2/22)
 - Jack: Generally if members of the public want to comment at the meeting, we listen, though it's a Select Board decision

Roundtable:

- Filling situation? Jess: Brought everything to the town's attention – told to bring it to their attention first and they'll walk the property; think an ECC member should also participate in the walk; haven't heard anything since then, will follow up

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 7:00PM at the Eliot Town Hall

Kari made a motion to adjourn, Jess seconded, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Graichen
Secretary, ECC

Cc: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File