

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

**DATE: March 21 (rescheduled from the 7th), 2018**  
**APPROVED: 4/4/18**

**OFFICERS:**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01PM at the Eliot Town Hall.

**In attendance:** MEMBERS – Kimberly Richards, Lisa Graichen, Kari Moore, Glenn Crilley, Doug Warrender (new member), Sarah Plocharczyk (new member), Jack Murphy (Liaison to Select Board);  
*Absent: Jess O'Donoghue (alternate)*

**Public input:**

- Bob Fisher and Rosann Adams visiting. Rosann thinks the Planning Board has straightened out a lot of issues, great to see the Commission has been notified of applications, starting to come together; Kim thanked Rosann for sending notices out.
- Jack: York Public Library 4/3 10:30-12:00 meeting on the buildout (York River Study). Rosann urges ECC members to attend. Jack says there's a database that could be useful.

**Membership updates**

- Connie Weeks has resigned. Kim wants to step down as chair but remain a member.
- Jack: Choice of officers is entirely the responsibility of the committee, can be done at any time. Don't need Select Board approval.
- Glenn will be moving in June, stepping down from the Commission.
- We will have 2 alternate openings and 1 regular member opening (when Glenn resigns).

**New member introductions**

- Doug Warrender: Interested in being involved in the conservation commission for a while
- Sarah Plocharczyk: Important to be involved in the community, conservation is big with our family.

**Review and Approve Past Minutes:** 2/14/18: A few minor edits. Kari makes a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Kim seconded. Unanimously accepted.

**Financial Report:** Kari: No changes to report.

**Vernal pool project** (Karen Young couldn't make it but Kari provided an update)

- Kari: Submitting a notice to the Select Board that we would like to inventory the town properties this year. Mt. A to Sea initiative is working on an inventory for the 5 towns. Karen Young submitted a grant to Maine Outdoor Heritage for the mapping. Citizen science volunteer effort to confirm the mapping, determine significant vernal pools. Karen should hear back in April about the funding, but the flyover wouldn't happen until maybe this fall, possibly pushed out to next spring. Could get boots on the ground next spring, but would like to do some small scale efforts this year to get the community engaged. Also communicating with the State of Maine's vernal pool expert who will be doing a training April 24 4-6pm. Not sure if there are spots available. **Send new members the information.** Start with town properties and Libbey Farm (if they're willing). **Kim reach out to the Goransons.** We can also join the land trust when they're volunteering. Mapping – either Stantec or the State of Maine Natural Areas Program – Lidar data will be analyzed. Sarah suggests involving the schools. Great idea, probably for next year. "Significant vernal pools" would fall under the natural resource protection act. Doug: Can leverage Lidar data for other uses too. Before Glenn moves make sure he helps identify probable locations!
- Kim: Potential future application – charge fees for impacting vernal pools → help fund conservation
- Kari: State program for municipalities – Special Areas Mgmt. Plan, allows for that kind of setup – e.g., impact vernal pools in developed area → protect others. Kittery working on this.
- **Kim will make sure the notice gets to the Select Board, see if they have questions or comments.**

#### **Development projects review**

- Kari and Lisa have attended Planning Board meetings recently. We may need to be engaged earlier – we're coming in when the permits are already approved.
- Kari: Comments on Ladyslipper application – not sure how we submit comments. Are we too late?
- Glenn: If letter comes from the Commission, it has to come before the Commission for feedback first (at a public meeting), but the timing can be tricky. You can submit comments as a private resident.
- Kari: When we're at Planning Board meetings we can speak on behalf of the Commission.
- Glenn: If you're there on behalf of the Commission, you can. If you're there and something new comes up that the Commission hasn't discussed yet, you should speak as a private citizen.
- **Kari: Ask Emily to come to one of our meetings to discuss this process.**
- Glenn: Old process – we'd get the plans, send out an email about the plan, engineer would review it and come to the meeting with items of concern – Commission adds/edits then votes on it.
- Glenn: Different stages of the permit, we don't necessarily want to review at preliminary stage, but the turnaround at the point where we do want input can be short.

#### **Old business:**

##### *Great Hill Gravel:*

- Lisa reported that Peggy Bensinger (assistant attorney general) says someone from DEP will inspect the site within the week, will let us know what he finds (3/20 email). **Kim will check in with Heather.**

**Commission bylaws:** Kim submitting them. Circulate bylaws to new members.

2018 budget request:

- Citizens Option meeting – we need everyone there → April 2, 7pm at Marshwood Middle School. Important to be there early. Select Board and Budget Committee have their budget recommendations. Citizens can propose other options. If a majority raise their hand, that will be a third option on the ballot. Land bank budget looks like \$5,000. We can propose something different. If there aren't enough people it becomes just a citizen hearing (nothing new).
- Glenn: Want to replenish what was spent on a project in X amount of years. Towns that have seed money are much more successful at getting conservation projects done. Easier for the taxpayers when we already have money in the bank.
  - \$5,000 per year – will take 8 years to replenish the \$40,000
  - Rate of property value increase...
  - Need to be ready to defend any amount
  - Doug: 8-year replenishment seems insufficient – suggest \$10,000 per year for 4-year
  - Need to identify targeted projects: e.g., Libbey Farm (what and when?), look at land trusts' plans, York River watershed area
  - Examples of what Eliot and other towns have done in the past – benefits (hunting, dog walking, etc.); Jack mentioned sea-level rise impacts
  - Applying for grants → matching funds
  - Find out how much it will cost per person (how it affects the rate).
- All: Send points to Kim, Doug volunteers to speak
- Bob: Tie into the vernal pool project → opportunity to protect them, need to be ready
- What's the status of the Goodwin project? Kim check in with Great Works.
- Was the money replenished from Johnson Farm? (\$25,000) We're down two projects.
- Looking for a 4-year replenishment → 25% of the depleted amount
- Doug made a motion that at the citizens option meeting he'll make a proposal on behalf of the Commission to replenish the funds from the Goodwin Farm project over a course of 4 years (\$10,000 x 4 years). Kari seconded. Unanimously accepted.

**Roundtable:**

- Kim email info re: Goodwin and Johnson Farms to new members

**Next meeting: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 7:00PM at the Eliot Town Hall**

Kim made a motion to adjourn, Lisa seconded, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Graichen

Secretary, ECC

Cc: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File