

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

**DATE: July 9, 2018 (rescheduled from July 4)**  
**APPROVED: August 1, 2018**

**OFFICERS:**

**Chair: Kari Moore**

**Vice chairman: Jess O'Donoghue**

**Secretary: Lisa Graichen**

**Treasurer: Doug Warrender**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11PM at the Eliot Town Hall.

**In attendance:** Lisa Graichen, Kari Moore, Doug Warrender, Jess O'Donoghue, Sarah Plocharczyk;  
**Absent:** *Kimberly Richards*

**Public input** (*none present*)

**Review and Approve Past Minutes:** Sarah made a motion to accept the 6/6/18 minutes as is, Jess seconded, no discussion. Minutes are approved. **Lisa will submit.**

**Financial Report:** Doug checked with Becky re: receipt from Land Bank expense for Goodwin Farm. Becky said she'd get back to him but **Doug will follow up.**

**Town Meeting Public Outreach Update:** Did not get approval for \$10,000 request for the land bank.

Jess: People had no idea what they were voting for. Question was confusing. Need to do more projects, build support – road cleanups, trail maps, etc. Communicate about the vernal pool project now that we know it's moving forward. Maybe we could get a map that's easier to interpret (e.g., trail/recreation opportunities map). Jess: Also nice to be able to show what York has done – people were impressed. Other questions/topics that came up:

- Questions about hiking information
- Stacy Creek – concerns about new development. **Look into it?**
- Spinney Creek and wildlife – **Lisa** pull together info for one of our meetings or a separate meeting?
- Someone asked about dragonfly nymphs. Controversial because probably not local.
- Mailing list – **Jess will organize:** Send meeting agendas, projects, etc. Jess connect with Wendy to set up. Lisa share on Facebook.
- Public access to Great Heath? Don't think so. York Pond – yes. Would be nice to have a sign, maps
- Town Forest – lots of management issues. Overcrowded in many places – trees are stressed. **Ask Kim to connect with forester who reached out.** Possible Scout troop project. NH Snowmobile Society does trail maintenance – any similar groups around here? **Sarah ask Dana about town forest management, then we can prepare recommendations.**
- New England Cottontail – Jess got a letter about it. That could be another good topic for a meeting. **Jess connect with Tom** (Fish and Wildlife?). **Fall series of presentations? Discuss at August meeting.**

**Goodwin Farm Update:** Kari talked to Darrell DeTour from Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT). Kim got a call about noise complaints, abutters concerned about possible clearcutting. Darrell said there's definitely no clearcutting or timber harvesting happening there. There was a small parking lot constructed to connect with Johnson Lane. Farmer recently installed a road to access the field. Great Works working on an agricultural conservation easement on 34 acres, farmland will be sold to the farmer. Invite Darrell to come to one of our meetings. Are they looking at anything else in Eliot?

**Trail and Conservation Lands Mapping:** Still a few pieces of information to track down. Focusing on the bigger, accessible areas (GWRLT, Kittery Land Trust, town-owned). Access, directions, activities/trails? Douglas Woods is the only one with well-maintained trails. Others – old logging trails or deer paths.

- Punkintown, Goodwin (coming soon, consider putting a sign?), Town Forest – logging roads, Douglas, York Pond area, Rustlewood, Johnson Farm

Trail-building idea: Maps, marking, organize volunteer days. Start with the town forest? Public input on trails? Liability questions (e.g., hunting) – has to be part of the information we put out there. Approach the town re: improving access and information. Sarah put together key points to pitch idea. Jess's friend has an ATV to help map it. Lisa suggested "Track Kit" app, which can be used for mapping. Kennebunk developed a 'virtual tour' of a trail. Have some information ready for Eliot Festival Day.

**York River Stewardship Plan:** Deadline passed for feedback on draft plan. Very detailed. Select Board agenda item this week to put it on November ballot. Help support. Look at the plan and website.

**Development Projects Review:** Haven't seen anything lately. Updating Eliot's shoreland ordinance to be consistent with the State. Next work session = site plan review process – might be interested in going.

#### **Old Business:**

*Commission Bylaws:* Accepted. Everyone review!

*Great Hill Gravel (GHG):* Jess forwarded everyone an email from Dana (document from lawyers/owners of GHG). They met with Dana. Other neighbors are fed up. All: Read the document. The question is what's the evidence/documentation? Concerned about types of fill and erosion. Jack said there are old water quality samples somewhere? Jess says none of her animals will drink their well water. No one in our neighborhood can afford to test water all the time. Connect with new clean water committee? Not sure if there are enough people on it yet. Need to know more about the regulations. York example? Raise awareness, get data. Continue to follow up with Dana and DEP.

*Vernal Pool Project:* Monitoring work next spring, need to start working on it in early fall. Need to publicize – Kari will check in with Karen Young. School involvement? Maybe a club or a project. Having something ready to hand out at Eliot Festival Day → Kari: Draft for review at September meeting.

#### **Roundtable:**

- Lisa following up on other enforcement-related questions. Stay tuned.

- Doug: Read about a town that had a zero-waste program for residents – there's a website that shows Conservation Commissions how to put together that program. Talk to the solid waste and recycling committee. Speaker ideas – Sustainable Seacoast, local farmers/farm stands.

**Next meeting:** August 1, 2018 – trails/maps, info for Eliot Festival Day, town forest, Great Hill Gravel

Kari made a motion to adjourn, Sarah seconded, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Graichen

Secretary, ECC

Cc: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File