

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

**DATE: September 2, 2020**

**OFFICERS:**

**Chair: Kari Moore**

**Vice Chair: Christina Karas**

**Secretary: Lynn Bublely**

**Treasurer: Alice Lynch**

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY ONLINE. THE CALL IN INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC WAS PROVIDED BY KARI MOORE PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING.

**1. Call:**

The meeting was called to order with roll call at 6:31PM by Kari Moore. In attendance: Kari Moore (Chair), Alice Lynch (Treasurer), Lisa Wise (Member), Lynn Bublely (Secretary), Melissa Albert, (General Assistance Administrator), Tomas Dundzila (Public). Absent: Christina Karas (Vice Chair)

**2. Review and approve past minutes:**

Meeting minutes from August 2020 were reviewed, changes made, and accepted unanimously at this time.

**3. Public Input:** Tom expresses an interest in invasive species management. Voices concern about Purple Loosestrife. Tom will reach out to the State of Maine regarding invasive species control. There are alternatives to herbicides such as beetle control that might be helpful.

Nancy Olmstead is someone Tom can reach out to. Alice reports application of thick black plastic for Knotweed control. A town email was sent out on July 27, 2020 regarding the chemical spraying for poison ivy control. Town members can subscribe to these emails at [eliotmaine.org/subscribe](http://eliotmaine.org/subscribe).

Action Item: Follow up on PI control- ?

Action Item: Follow up on invasive species- Tom

**4. Financial Report/ Budget:**

No expenditures noted for the month. Lisa will transfer treasurer documentation to Alice.

Action Item: Lisa to transfer treasurer documentation to Alice

38  
39 **5. Project Development/ Permit Review:**

40 No new projects brought to the Commission this month

41 ● Parcel 45-15 (McLellan Drive off Rt. 236) Kari Moore Spoke to Dana about this parcel  
42 of land. Ryan Ward is a person who is a developer that has an interest in developing  
43 marijuana manufacturing. He has expressed interest in having the parcel be in  
44 conservation and/ or contributing money to the land bank. It is town land but is not  
45 designated as conservation land. The land currently is not developable because of  
46 zoning requirements. It is considered a wildlife habitat, and nothing should be  
47 developed on it. There has been no request to purchase the land and there is nothing  
48 for us to do now. There were follow up questions regarding this parcel from the  
49 planning board.

50  
51 ●Spinney Creek- Kari Moore was emailed by Melanie Ober with concerns about algae  
52 bloom in the creek. This happens every year and this year because of significant rain in  
53 June the bloom happened. Lori Howell, from SC Shellfish, reports the gate has been  
54 broken since June 2019 and was opened for the 1<sup>st</sup> time this year on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Question  
55 was asked “who is in charge of opening the gate?” The shellfish company has taken  
56 charge of opening the gate as no one else has taken control. Locals adjacent to Spinney  
57 Creek are to be notified when the gate is opened and closed. This is not a natural  
58 habitat; it is a manipulated habitat. We could investigate grants for study or survey to  
59 identify non-point sources of pollution. We could try to qualify for an impaired water  
60 body state #319 grant. MS4- Discuss with MS4 consultants. This body of water has been  
61 identified as a priority for MS4. It is on the states DEP list for impaired water body. #319  
62 grant will become available in March 2021. Christina Karas has started looking into the  
63 grant and Lisa Wise has sent to her information that she had been collecting. Lisa will  
64 contact Kristy Rabasca regarding grant application. Kittery has been successful in a grant  
65 for Spruce Creek and Kari will reach out to the Kittery Conservation Commission for  
66 information on their process. Great Bay Water Keeper lives in Kittery and Lisa will  
67 connect and follow up with Christina.

68 **Action item: Grant investigation #319 for impaired water bodies- Christina Karas**

69 **Action item: Contact Kristy Rabasca for grant application- Lisa Wise**

70 **6. Education/ Outreach:**

- 71 a. Stormwater Public Education Efforts- (see attached information.) Information is provided  
72 regarding consultant who assists with 5 town area with storm water management for MS4  
73 permitting. There is an educational outreach component and a 5-year plan to go to the DEP  
74 submitted in December. The main topic is litter. There is a concern regarding the reduction  
75 of litter, specifically cigarette butts and cans. Section 1.3 specifically targets education

76 outreach and best management practices. Do we have any areas in Eliot that are cause of  
77 waste concern?

78 **Action item: Identification of areas in Eliot that could benefit from litter reduction-?**

- 79 b. TED Talk- Litter App and Education: Litterati App- This is an app to track litter collection. Is  
80 this something we could use. Alice suggests making this available to the local schools. Look  
81 at the app and provide your feedback.
- 82 c. Fall Beach Clean Up: Dead Duck- Lisa reports that Jennifer Kennedy from Blue Ocean  
83 Society has a protocol document for social distancing, masking use, and requirements for  
84 beach clean ups. Blue Ocean Society will provide bags if needed but not gloves this year.  
85 There will be paper data collection sheets to document what type of trash is picked up.  
86 There is an online marine debris tracker where the type of debris can be tracked. Jennifer is  
87 available to host. We will need volunteers to RSVP and to pre-register to keep the numbers  
88 manageable during the pandemic. Possible number of volunteers capped at 15. The 2  
89 proposed dates for beach cleanup are Sunday October 4 at 9:00 AM and Saturday October  
90 24 at 12:00 PM. Kari will reach out to Steve Robinson and Dana regarding the towns  
91 availability to take the trash. Tom asks what happens to the data that is collected regarding  
92 the different types of trash?

93 **Action item: Contact Dana, Town Manager to find out about trash collection after beach**  
94 **cleanup- Kari Moore**

## 95 **7. Town Forest and Compatible Use:**

97 ● Jill Crosbie, stewardship coordinator for Great Works Regional Land Trust has reached  
98 out to us regarding ATV usage. Last week there was a fire on one of the roads in  
99 Punkintown. ATV usage has been tracked to Shattuck Lane off Rt. 236 heading into Eliot  
100 from South Berwick. Is there something we can do? Connection has been made with  
101 Dana and the town manager in South Berwick. Dana wants to reach out to abutters and  
102 start a conversation about ATV's and their land usage. This also applies to Johnson Lane.  
103 Do we need signage? The Commission decided unanimously to approach the town  
104 about posting Town Forest trails against ATV usage.

105 ●Lisa Wise has reached out to the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions  
106 regarding a RFP for forest management. NH sent 3 RFP's and Maine has yet to reply.  
107 Eliot does have a forest management plan that was written in 2009. A recent memo has  
108 been sent to the town asking about how we could move forward with a plan. Our goal  
109 is to maintain the health of the forest. Lisa will write up some plans

110 **Action Item: Update writeup plan regarding Forest Management Plan: Lisa Wise**

## 111 **8. Goals and Objectives:**

- Develop a better process with the Town Planning Board to make sure we are brought into the loop regarding projects that are being presented
- Forrest Management- getting that going
- To have a better understanding of plans that are being updated
- Open Space Plan- Town manager to integrate into a management plan
- Storm water issue- Remain connected to storm water issue as it pertains to Spinney Creek
- Open Space Ordinance-? Alice will contact land use assistant (name) to get it on the cycle? Regarding subdivision projects

#### 9. Round Table:

Tom asks if local ATV users are part of an organized club? He had recently been in Aroostook County where ATV usage is a real thing. He also asks if we have reached out to the state forestry department? He had gone out with a county forester. The state forester service will walk your property and make recommendations or have a template available for a baseline plan. Lisa and Kari have been out with a forester. We are working off an old Forest Management plan. Could the state offer some improvements? Tom will reach out to his contact person. Lisa will also reach out to her contact. Kari Moore will be asking the new town planner to participate in our next scheduled meeting.

Action item: Reach out to known contact person regarding forest baseline plan- Tom  
Action item: Reach out to known contact person regarding forest baseline plan- Lisa  
Action item: Contact new town planner to participate in our next scheduled meeting- Kari Moore

**Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday October 7, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

10. Meeting is adjourned at 7:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bublely

Secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File