

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

DATE: August 5, 2020

OFFICERS:

Chair: Kari Moore

Vice Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Lisa Wise

Treasurer: Vacant

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 6:32 PM by Kari Moore. In attendance: Kari Moore (Chair), Christina Karas (Member), Lynn Bubley (Member, acting secretary), Lisa Wise (Secretary), Melissa Albert, (General Assistance Administrator). Absent: Alice Lynch (Member)

2. Review and approve past minutes:

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

3. Public Input: There is no public attendance tonight at this meeting.

4. Financial Report/ Budget:

No expenditures noted for the month. \$5000 is the amount recommended in the Town budget for the land bank. Budget meeting was held on July 14, 2020 and amount was allocated to Conservation Commission. Kari Moore suggested money to be spent on outreach material such as laminated conservation area maps.

5. Project Development/ Permit Review:

●0 Harold Dow Highway- Retail space and commercial condominiums. Public hearing was held on Tuesday June 16, 2020 (PB 19-23). Kari Moore was in attendance. Comments from the Conservation Commission were offered regarding the proposed maintenance of a meadow buffer. Planning Board accepted recommended language offered by the Conservation Commission that they would be responsible and need to maintain this meadow buffer.

●Surry Lane subdivisions- Planning Board did meet on July 7, 2020, Kari Moore in attendance. Conservation Commission had concerns regarding the potential unnecessary impact to wetland habitat. Good discussion was had and agreement to include language stating that development could not further impact wetlands on this site.

●Foxbrush Lane- Conservation Commission did not receive information on this project. Kari Moore sent David Galbraith an email regarding the submission of projects for review to the Conservation Commission prior to the Planning Board meetings. We need someone on the Conservation Commission to act as a liaison to the Planning Board to make sure we get the project submissions. A new planner, Jeff Brubarker, has been hired by the Town of Eliot. A new land use assistant has also been hired. Will try to get Jeff Brewbaker to attend the Commission's October meeting.

● Parcel 45-15 (McLellan Drive off Rt. 236) Kari Moore Spoke to Dana about this parcel of land. Ryan Ward is a person who is a developer that has an interest in developing marijuana manufacturing. He has expressed interest in having the parcel be in conservation and/ or contributing money to the land bank. It is town land but is not designated as conservation land. He is not interested in developing the land and because it is within 500' of a town resource, it is not developable. It is considered a wildlife habitat, and nothing can be built on it. There has been no request to purchase the land and there is nothing for us to do now.

●Spinney Creek- Kari Moore was emailed by Melanie Ober with concerns about algae bloom in the creek. This happens every year and this year because of significant rain in June the bloom happened. Lori Howell, from SC Shellfish, reports that the gate has been broken since last June and it was opened for the 1st time this year on July 13th. Question was asked "who is in charge of opening the gate?" The shellfish company has taken charge of opening the gate as no one else has taken control. Locals in the area are to be notified when the gate is opened and closed. This is not a natural habitat, it is a manipulated habitat. We could look into grants for study or survey to identify non point sources of pollution. We could try to qualify for a impaired water body state #319 grant. MS4- Discuss with MS4 consultants.

6. Education/ Outreach:

Climate Strategy Stakeholders Sessions- this information was sent to Maine Municipal Officers with the purpose of starting to look at state climate initiatives. Some of the areas to be discussed will be transportation, infrastructure, and coastal resiliency. There is a link

to survey material. They are looking for input and local information. Kari Moore will ask Dana how the town will be involved. These will be virtual sessions. Kari will send out the link. Beginning with Habitat mapping is another survey request from the Maine Conservation Association and York River Wild and Scenic. It is a state program that has done regional maps on conservation blocks. They would like to know if the maps are useful and how best they can serve local conservation commissions. We are interested in improving our future mapping. Jen Kennedy, from Blue Ocean Society, has sent information that beach clean ups can again happen safely. We will look for a date in October for another clean up at Dead Duck. Lisa Wise will reach out to Blue Ocean Society for a date.

7. Town Forest and Compatible Use:

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

8. Commission Officers election:

Elections are to be held the 1st meeting after Town Meeting. Alice Lynch- voted unanimously as Treasurer, Lynn Bublely- voted unanimously as Secretary, Christina Karas- voted unanimously as Vice Chair, Kari Moore- voted unanimously as Chair. Upcoming "big" efforts to focus on for the coming year- Updating the Comprehensive Plan, TIFF Development, Open Space Plan.

9. Round Table:

No round table issues/ concerns voiced at tonight's meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday September 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM

10. Meeting is adjourned at 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bublely

Acting secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File