

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

DATE: June 3, 2020

OFFICERS:

Chair: Kari Moore

Vice Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Lisa Wise

Treasurer: Lisa Wise

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 at 6:30 PM by Kari Moore. In attendance: Kari Moore (Chair), Alice Lynch (Member), Christina Karas (Member), Lynn Bubley (Member, acting secretary), Lisa Wise (Secretary), Christina Goodwin, (Land Use Administrative Assistant).

2. Review and approve past minutes:

Meeting minutes from May 2020 were reviewed and accepted unanimously at this time.

3. Public Input: Brian and Danielle Burrie attended the meeting virtually. They have no comments at this time but are interested in conservation in the community.

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 will be held on July 14, 2020 and amount to be allocated to Conservation Commission to be determined at this meeting.

5. Project Development/ Permit Review:

- Planning Board- 787 Main Street- Shoreland Zone application- Dock installation
 - Planning Board- 0 Main Street- Shoreland Zone application- Dock installation
- Public meeting was held last week. Kari did attend. The developer for the 787 Main Street was in attendance. Approval was had by the DEP. Conservation Commission did note some tree clearing. A condition will be including in the approval that the town shall be notified prior to the additional tree clearing.
- 0 Main Street- Dock cannot be installed until the building has been put up.

38 ●352 River Road- Dock instillation. Kristina states that the application was
39 approved. Reflectors to be included with the dock according to the ordinance.
40 Kari was unable to attend the Public Hearing for this project. Alice questioned the
41 zoning requirements as the float appears to be further out than the Mean Low
42 Water Mark. The piers do not extend past this mark, only the ramp and the float.
43 This meets the requirements.

44 ●0 Harold Dow Highway- Retail space and commercial condominiums. Public
45 hearing will be held on Tuesday June 16, 2020 (PB 19-23). 11-acre lot and there is
46 a request to build a 6000 sq ft retail space with parking, 8000 sq ft building and 3-
47 10,000 sq ft buildings and a road through wetlands. Site was partially clear cut in
48 2002 and a utility crossing permit was obtained from the State of Maine. The
49 developer has contained necessary state approvals for wetlands impacts. A
50 permit from the DEP was obtained to fill in some wetland area. Applicant did his
51 due diligence to find an alternative spot for this road, none was to be had. They
52 are looking to fill approximately 14,000 sq ft which seems relatively small.
53 Commission members questioned why DEP issued permit to fill in wetland. Kari
54 Moore suggested that this is a small area and the wetland did not meet the
55 criteria as wetlands. Vernal pool study did not identify vernal pools on site. The
56 proposed plan shows that buffers will be maintained for forested wetland and
57 meadow to support the New England Cottontail rabbit population. Concern was
58 raised as to how these buffers would be maintained in the long term. Alice
59 suggested signage be placed for the cottontail habitat. The business
60 condominiums will be held by the owners. Kari will participate in the public
61 hearing and will make recommendations on behalf of the commission regarding
62 the long-term maintenance of habitat buffers.

63 ●Surry Lane subdivisions- Public hearing July 7, 2020. Small subdivision, 9.5 acres
64 off Beech Road. Vernal pool assessment completed, and no vernal pool found.
65 Trees on the property have been cleared and it is not apparent why this is allowed
66 prior to the approval of the site plan. Commission members should review the
67 plans provided by Kristina Goodwin and be prepared to discuss at the next
68 meeting.

70 6. **Foreclosed property and watershed considerations:**

71 Continue to consider a parcel of land behind the Beech Rd. that has been foreclosed
72 upon (Map 22, Lot 4). Kari informed Dana of the Commissions interest in retaining this
73 land for conservation. Has not heard back yet.

74 7. **Education/ Outreach:**

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● May 16, 2020 was Invasive Species week in Maine. Information was posted to Facebook.

● Litter is becoming more of a problem in Eliot. Kari spoke to Dana about signage and he felt it would not be useful due to signage overload. The Commission has the option to go to the Select Board if we felt signs were needed, possibly in selected areas. This item will be placed on hold for now so we can gather additional information on problem areas.

We have had some comments from the public related to invasive species. Can they pull plants out themselves, on town property, specifically Japanese Knotweed? There has also been some concern about poison ivy. Specifically, there has been some concern with poison ivy control. The Commission should look into alternative controls to herbicides. Kari looking for volunteers to take on this project.

8. Town Forest and Compatible Use:

● York Pond Town Forest-Damage has been noted with the use of ATV's on the trails. It is not clear if such activities are restricted on Town Lands. Lynn emailed Dana about the usage of these trails. There are no restrictions that we know of. Kari spoke to Jill Crosby from Great Works Land Trust regarding the ongoing issues with ATV's. Difficult to control where they are coming on to town land. As long as they stay on the paths, they do not seem to be causing undue damage. Boulder placement was brought up as a deterrent for ATV's. Lynn to contact the Maine Conservation Commission Association to see if they have any information regarding restrictions.

● Johnson Lane- Acquired in 2009, no public access to this parcel ever. GWLT has been doing some selective cutting on the adjacent property and the forester they use may be able to advise on forest management on the town properties. Selective cutting is recommended on the town forest as the area is overgrown and precluding a healthy forest. Alice and Christina to possibly walk the Johnson Lane property.

9. Round Table-:

Kari received a call from Ryan Ward- interested in development in Eliot. Interested in town land that may be developed in support of marijuana manufacturing. He believes this land is conservation land, but the Commission is not familiar with this as conservation land. This needs to be confirmed with Dana. The property does appear to contain a large wetland buffer to a stream. The lot is off route 236 and is lot #45-015. Mr. Ward further indicated that he and his partners would like to donate money to the Commission either to a project or possibly to the land bank. Kari will contact Dana for

112 additional information and suggest that Mr. Ward attend one of the Commission's
113 upcoming meetings.

114 **Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday July 1, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

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116 10. Meeting is adjourned at 7:50 PM
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119 Respectfully submitted,

120 Lynn Bublely

121 Acting secretary

122 CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File
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