

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Kari Moore at the Eliot Town Hall. In attendance: Kari Moore (Chair), Alice Lynch (Member), Christina Karas (Member), Lynn Bubley (Member, acting secretary), Tom Dundzila (Public), Lauren Dow and Amy Lapiana (Public- Eliot Elementary School.)
2. Review and approve past minutes- Meeting minutes from Jan 2020 were reviewed with edits. Lynn will correct and send to Kari
3. Public Input- Glenn Crilly, former conservation member, returns a notebook filled with notes, photos, discs, and general information for the Conservation Commission. Brief discussion was held regarding projects at Punkintown, Eliot Town Forest and Johnson Lane.
4. Eliot Elementary School Outdoor Classroom- Lauren Dow and Amy Lapiana discuss their role in a proposed outdoor classroom at Eliot Elementary School. They are both parents working with PEEPS (Partnership of Eliot Elementary Parents) and are looking for teacher “buy in” to feel they can move forward with the project. The principal is open to the idea but does not want to put undue pressure on teachers. Last year they did a playground renovation project and this year are looking to focus on a large wood lot behind the school. Work was done on the lot in the 1990’s by an Eagle Scout however the lot has overgrown. They would like to make the benefits of this project known to the teachers, looking for a curriculum that would benefit both the teachers and the students. Some work has been done clearing the trail and they are looking for input as to how the space may be used. A landscape engineer from Kittery is proposed to come and assess the site. Suggestions were made to: contact Coyote Club regarding their usage, organize a public event to have volunteers record what is on the lot (Bio Blitz), create story walks, have high school students volunteer their time, perhaps starting as a play space to have the teachers see the potential benefits of the outdoor space, contacting Project Learning Tree, where other schools are involved with projects such as these, find a focal point and follow it through the seasons. Kari suggests finding resources available, perhaps some state resources. We can talk to Kyle Lewis.
5. Financial Report/ Budget- No monies were spent this past month. Kari attended the most recent Budget Meeting and discussed the \$15,000 request to fund the Land Bank. We are looking for this money to replace \$18,000 spent for land purchases and money to Great Works Land Trust. Town manager recommends \$5,000. Committee did not ask any specific questions to the Conservation Commission.
6. Project Development/ Permit Review- Shilo Farm School- much discussion about the proposal regarding additional parking lot and kitchen renovations. Alice would like to know where the wetland boundaries are. Further review of documents is needed. To send comments to Kari by February 18th. 100 Dow Highway- proposal for propane tanks. No concern for any spills or from a natural resource point of view. Parcel #787, Kari sent comments but has not heard anything as to date. The next Planning Board meeting will be March 8th, if anyone is able to attend.

7. Open Space- Bill Olsen can meet next week to discuss. Town Manager sent us information about a piece of land that has not had taxes paid. It is a piece 3+ acres that is land locked off Beech Rd. Would this piece benefit our Open Space plan or cost us? A suggestion was made to contact Great Works Land Trust to see if they have any information about the area. Christina has offered to walk the land if she can access.
8. Education/ Outreach- Vernal Pools- Workshop will be planned for the last weekend in March. Could we use the pond at York Pond or possibly Michelle Meyer's pool? At the March meeting Kari will bring Vernal Pool cards. Please bring any ideas for outreach to Kari. The library is available for "talks" for free.
9. Round Table- no round table topics
10. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 4, 2020 at 6:30 PM
11. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM