

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 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), Steve and Sue Hines (Public), Tom Dundzila (Public).
2. Kari welcomed new members to the committee
3. Review and approve past minutes. Kari reports that there was not a quorum at the last meeting and a formal meeting was not held. No minutes to review and approve
4. Public Input- Tom Dundzila informs us that the Seacoast Environmental Film Festival is happening this week. The event is sponsored by the Kittery Land Trust and takes place at the Kittery Community Center. Steve and Sue Hines voice interest in what we do. They voice an interest in “keeping things the way they were” here in Eliot.
5. Planning Board Update: The committee has been briefed on general recommendations relating to the Open Space Subdivision plan. Planning Board is supportive. Some public concern voiced about any development in Eliot. How do we allow development and maintain conservation in the community? Plans for a small working group with members from Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Town Planner and (town members?). This group plans to meet in the later part of January. Alice volunteered to participate in this group. Plan is to report to Town Meeting on April 7, 2020 along with the planning board. York has been successful in conservation efforts. Kari will get in touch with the group in York.
6. Open Space/ Conservation: Kari explains the purpose of the Great Works Land Trust and what a Land Trust is in general to the group. New members are encouraged to review the Comprehensive Plan, the Open Space Ordinance, and the goals to see what the Commission has completed. Shore Land Zone and Bay Keeper are 2 potentials talks that could take place at a future meeting. Kari and Christina attended the Planning Board Meeting on Tuesday January 7 to discuss the Open Space Subdivision Ordinance. The meeting went well. There is a possibility of having someone who is an expert on Open Space Development to help us decide what to do. If there is an ordinance that would need to go on the ballot in November 2020, we would need to have it completed by June 2020
7. Project Development/ Permit Review: 6 permits applications were submitted to the commission by Christina Goodwin today consisting of: Change of Use, Subdivisions, Docks, Developments on Route 236. A review process is trying to be re-established as we should have 1 week to review the applications. Kari will send out the applications for the commission to review. Kari will look in the share drive (Google Drive) so we can all view, make comments, and see other commission members edits. Steve and Sue have concerns about a property that abuts them. Concern that zoning issues are being compromised. Kari suggests checking in with Shelley who oversees these issues.

8. Vernal Pool Inventory and Training: This is an ongoing issue for several years. We want to be active in locating, mapping, and verifying the vernal pools, going out into and with the community. There was a question about having someone come in and do a training but there is limited time to get this done. The time to identify these pools is April. 1 person to do a training on a Saturday. Private landowners have in the past offered their pools for training. We do have a model of identified pools, which have not been verified.
9. Round Table: Commission members- Christina has an interest in storm water pollution prevention- hopes to talk about this in the future, and how High School students can volunteer with us. Lauren (last name) has an interest in being a liaison to the Eliot Elementary School, Kari, schedule an entomologist to assess trees for the Emerald Ash Bore, wants us to look at the Comprehensive Plan, the Forrest Plan, and the Open Space Plan. She presents a Thank You letter from the Great Works Land Trust in appreciation for our \$150 donation. Budget Committee/ Select Board will meet January 30, 2020 to discuss our financial request to fund the Land Bank. We used \$18,000 recently. We are requesting \$15,000 to refund. We need to let them know we need money available to match grants that are offered. Wells has a very successful Conservation Commission. Could we talk with them about their success? Kari will send out Land Bank information.
10. Next regular business meeting February 5, 2020
11. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM

Submitted,  
Lynn Bubley