

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

**DATE: October 7, 2020**

**OFFICERS:**

**Chair: Kari Moore**

**Vice Chair: Christina Karas**

**Secretary: Lynn Bubley**

**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 6:32PM by Kari Moore. In attendance: Kari Moore (Chair), Christina Karas, (Vice Chair), Alice Lynch (Treasurer), Lisa Wise (Member), Lynn Bubley (Secretary), Jordan Miles, (Town Treasurer acting as Administrative Assistant), Tomas Dundzila (Public).

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

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

**3. Public Input:** No public input at this meeting.

**4. Financial Report/ Budget:**

No expenditures noted for the month. Alice has nothing to report.

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

- 505 Howard Dow Highway (Rt. 236)- This plan has yet to be reviewed by the planning board. This is proposed to be a new marijuana manufacturing facility. Tree buffer needs to be addressed. It appears there has been some tree clearing and a wetland that crosses a boundary of the property. We need to address a tree buffer.

- 495 Harold Dow Highway- Wetlands have been noted on the southwest backside border of the plan. Has a wetland review been done? Kari Moore suggests wetlands be noted on the current plan.

- 41 Rodgers Point Road- There are questions about the setbacks for the move of this house. The plan is to move this house further away from the water. There appear to be no significant concerns and no natural resource impacts/ concerns.

- 16 Arc Road (parcel 45-17) - This is a new marijuana manufacturing facility. The plan is scheduled to be reviewed October 20, 2020. Our comments are due to Kari Moore on October 15, 2020. Conservation Commission is requesting a wetland survey to be completed. The parcel of land is adjacent to Sturgeon Creek, feeding Spinney Creek, feeding the Piscataqua River. How close will they be to the Creek? The 75' regulatory distance from water needs clarification. There was a question about the material being used for road pavement especially as this road will be crossing a stream.
- McClellan Drive- Originally a marijuana developer wanted to purchase this parcel # with no intent to develop. This is considered a wildlife habitat. This parcel is not considered conservation land, and Sturgeon Creek does cross this parcel. From a natural resource standpoint, there is no place to develop. Kari Moore sent correspondence to Dana stating the Conservation Commission does not support selling the land for development.

## **6. Education/ Outreach:**

- Fall Beach Clean Up: Dead Duck- This has been put on hold due to Corona Virus restrictions. Blue Ocean Society does not have the capability to support a clean-up with multiple people. A suggestion was made for a town wide clean-up where individuals clean up their own local areas and log what type of litter they have picked up. Christina Karas will contact Dana Lee regarding other social media sites we might use to attract more participants.

Action item: Contact Dana Lee, Town Manager to discuss social media platforms – Christina Karas

## **Invasive Species information**

Tom Dundzila presents a summary of the Maine Invasive Plants Field Guide. Tom has created a 3-page document to be possibly used by the public. (Please see the attachment below.)

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

- After Jill Crosbie, stewardship coordinator for Great Works Regional Land Trust reached out to us regarding ATV usage, Kari brought this up to the town attorney. We were informed that if we would want to ban ATV usage on town land we would need to go before the town with an ordinance. Instead of banning, a discussion was had that we perhaps look at the rule of behavior. We could develop a plan that would piggyback on to the Open Space plan. We could identify stakeholders that would benefit from the

land usage and have them assist us with trail maintenance. Kari Moore will have Jill Crosbie attend a Conservation Commission meeting. The Town Planner, Jeffrey Brubaker, will attend the November meeting.

**Action Item: Contact Jeffrey and Jill for meeting attendance- Kari Moore**

## **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, 319 Grant
- Open Space Ordinance-? Alice will contact land use assistant (name) to get it on the cycle? Regarding subdivision projects
- Goodwin Farm Land Trust- Jill Crosbie will let us know of a November official opening celebration.

## **9. Round Table:**

No roundtable items

**Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday November 4, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

10. Meeting is adjourned at 8:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bublely

Secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File

**Managing Invasive Plants in Eliot Maine  
Preliminary Information and Suggestions  
October 2020**

This introduction to managing invasive plants is primarily based on material published in Maine Invasive Plants Field Guide.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Maine Natural Areas Program. 2019 [maine.gov/dacf/mnap](http://maine.gov/dacf/mnap)

**Definition** - an invasive plant that is not native to a particular ecosystem, whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

### Prevention

- Plant native instead of non-native plants.
- Reduce the spread of invasive plants, e.g. clean light and heavy equipment before moving it to new job site.
- Set up monitoring program.

### Integrated Pest Management Principles

1. Identify pests.
2. Establish threshold to determine when to treat the invasive plant.
3. Monitor pest population.
4. Select an appropriate control strategy. There are no silver bullets. Managing invasive plants is a long-term effort.
  - Manual or mechanical removal.
    - Cut, pull, and / or dig to remove plants, especially roots.
    - Smooth disturbance, cover with duff, and replant with native plants.
    - Appropriately dispose of invasive plants.
    - Monitor sites for reemergence of invasive plants.
  - Biological control
    - Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells breeds beetles that attack purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Contacting the Reserve is on my to-do list.
  - Chemical control
    - A license is required to apply herbicides
      - for hire.
      - when using restricted pesticides.
      - where land is open to the public.
      - near wetland or waterbody.
    - Active ingredients. Each chemical has a prescribed application method and season, e.g. avoid using chemicals when plants are flowering to reduce collateral damage to pollinators.
      - Glyphosate is nonselective.
      - Triclopyr is broadleaf selective.
      - "Cocktails" of glyphosate and triclopyr and other ingredients.
      - Horticulture vinegar and other "organic" chemicals generally do not translocate to roots.
      - Other chemicals, each with their own set of issues.
    - Application on
      - Leaves (Foliar).
      - Cut stems.
      - Basal bark.
  - Combination of methods e.g. cut plant and apply herbicide.
5. Reevaluate and improve techniques.
6. Disposal of plant material.
  - In general, avoid or minimize moving (and spreading) of invasive plant material.
  - Leave in place. Continue monitoring.
  - Remove before flowering and the production of fruit or seeds.
  - Air dry plants, especially the roots. Dry roots facing up.
  - Solarization - "bag and bake".
  - Move to transfer station if plant material is contained in contractor bags.

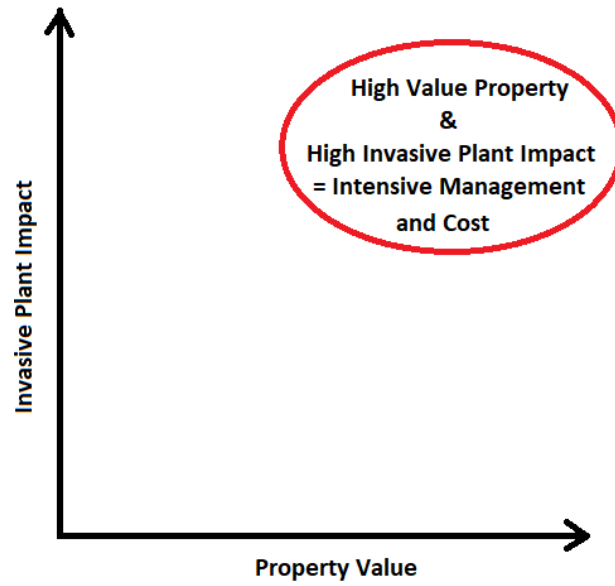
- Drown in a barrel, but seeds may survive.
- Composting, but must be hot enough to kill seeds and rhizomes.
- Burning.
- Chipping, but must be monitored for regeneration

Additional rules apply to wetlands and waterbodies, e.g. Eliot's Great Heath and boat launch.

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### Recommendations for the Eliot Conservation Commission (ECC)

- Educate the Town Manager, Select Board, Planning Board, and public on identification, prevention, and management.
- Recognize and record invasive plants on iMapInvasives (<https://www.imapinvasives.org/>).
- Identify high value and priority areas in Eliot, e.g. Focus Areas of Ecological Significance, Town Forest, etc.
- Prioritize and remove invasive plants and dispose of them properly. For example, ECC could organize invasive plant removal events like road or beach trash cleanup events.
- Encourage developers, businesses, and citizens to plant native plants instead of non-natives.



Respectfully,  
Tomas Dundzila  
Eliot, ME