

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

DATE: December 2, 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 the Town PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING.

1. Call:

The meeting was called to order with roll call at 6:34 PM by Kari Moore. In attendance: Kari Moore (Chair), Christina Karas, (Vice Chair), Alice Lynch (Treasurer), Lisa Wise (Member), Lynn Bubley (Secretary), Tomas Dundzila (Public), Melissa Albert (Administrative Assistant.)

2. Review and approve past minutes:

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

3. Public Input: Tom Dundzila will present Managing Invasive Plants in Eliot Maine-Suggested Action Plan.

4. Financial Report/ Budget:

The Conservation Commission budget was submitted to the town on November 23, 2020. All line items were included as discussed, no new additions. Alice Lynch reports that \$150 was remitted to the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions along with \$150 to Great Works Regional Land Trust. Jim Tessier, Johnson Rd. resident, submitted a document that outlines our financial responsibility to the road maintenance on Johnson Rd. The verbal town agreement is that the Conservation Commission be responsible for 10% of yearly road maintenance for the public to access the Town Forest. His total expenditures this year was \$2,782 and our portion is \$278.20. We will be looking for something in writing that defines this process.

5. Project Development/ Permit Review

●771 Main Street- a 1.7- acre parcel that will have 3 units of elderly housing. These units will exist on public water and sewer. Attar location map is mis- labeled as Map 6 Lot #73 when the correct notation is Map 6 Lot #43. No comments from a conservation point of view

●778 Main Street- this is a 9.3-acre lot that will be sub-divided into 7 buildable lots. This is a resubmission to the Conservation Commission with our initial comments being sent in. It is unclear whether the first set of concerns have been addressed. We need clarification regarding wetlands on lot #3. We are also looking on clarification as to piers and docking in the water. There is documentation that they will maintain the 75' wetland buffer on the lots adjacent to the Piscataqua River. We need to check with Jeff Brubaker to see if our initial comments were addressed.

●114 Harold Dow Highway- a request is being made to add a Pole Barn on site to Jenkins Fuel site. There appear to be wetlands on the side of the parcel that is adjacent to this site within a 25' border. Wetlands are also noted in the back of the parcel. We need clarification of this wetland strip adjacent. The site is asking for a waiver from the state. Commission is concerned about the Pole Barn in proximity to the wetlands.

●7 McClellan Drive- this currently is a carwash that will be converted to manufacturing for the extraction of hemp and/ or other botanical oils. There is a request to add an 8000 sq ft building on to the existing 2000 sq ft building. This is in proximity of 2 town parcels. There is an open bid out for the purchase of the 2 parcels which will need to remain as conservation land. What will the setbacks be to the wetlands?

●41 Rogers Point Rd- there will be a hearing on this property 12/17/2020.

6. Education/ Outreach:

● Invasive species- Tom Dundzila presents "Managing Invasive Plants in Eliot Maine- a Suggested Action Plan. He presents a 5- page document wanting to build community awareness and education about invasive plant species and their control. Please see attached. Tom has reached out to Nancy Olmstead, Maine Invasive Plant biologist and Jill Crosbie at the Great Works Regional Land Trust for support. Tom will work on a "best management plan."

●Christina Karas continues to work towards potential development of a watershed plan for Spinney Creek. We will be looking at this project for next year. We need to familiarize ourselves with the grant process and submission timeline.

●Draining of Littlebrook Pond- Conservation Commission has heard discussion/ concerns about Littlebrook Pond. Littlebrook Pond is at the end of Littlebrook Lane. This body of water is man- made with the dam existing on private property. The body of water is not

natural and does not fall under regulations. It is considered a significant waterfowl habitat. DEP did make a visit to the site. This issue has been discussed previously and Kari will review her notes for recommendations that were made.

- Kari plans to reach out to the TIF group to see about presenting at our next meeting.

- Sunday November 8 at 2 PM, Great Works Regional Land Trust had the opening to the Goodwin Farm parcel. Eliot Conservation Commission was part of getting that land. This parcel of land attaches to the town forest parcel at Johnson Lane. Kari presented along with Tin Smith. Alice Lynch and Christina Karas were also in attendance. There was a great turnout.

7. Town Forest and Compatible Use:

- No information provided regarding Town Forest.

8. Round Table:

Lynn Bublely asks about the development of and Open Space Development ordinance for subdivisions or businesses to contribute financially to a land fund.

Christina Karas informs us that the Eliot Clean Water Committee is starting up again.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday January 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM

9. Meeting is adjourned at 8:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bublely

Secretary

CC: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File

Managing Invasive Plants in Eliot Maine Suggested Action Plan

Submitted to the Eliot Conservation Commission (ECC)
December 1, 2020

Eliot is located in a wonderful place. Our region includes some of the richest biodiversity in Maine, and is a very important and attractive aspect for residents and visitors. There is real value in preserving our native environment, and managing invasive plants, for the benefit of the rare plants and animals that live here.

An invasive plant is not native to a particular ecosystem, whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. The State of Maine has identified 33 highly damaging, terrestrial invasive plant species.¹ Several of these species are growing in Eliot. If left unchecked, the invasive plants will cause economic and environmental harm, especially to areas of ecological significance in Eliot and neighboring locations. The focus in this document is on invasive plants, but invasive animals are also a threat.

The following is a suggested action plan for 2021. It is a low-cost, grassroots, stopgap measure, but a necessary and important step in managing invasive plants.

In 2021, the resources in Eliot should take steps to

- Build awareness of invasive plants and grow support for managing them
- Prevent the introduction of new invasive plants
- Slow the spread of existing plants
- Select appropriate control strategies
- Reevaluate and improve the plan

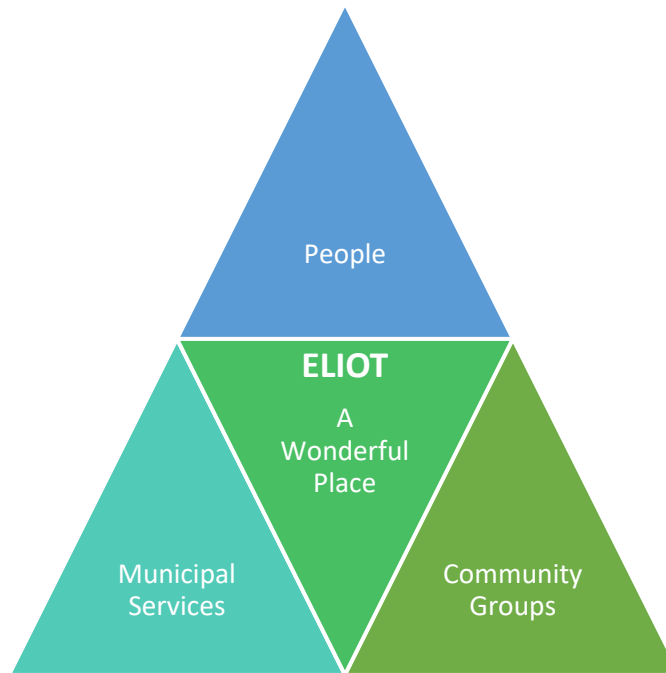
Details are on pages 2-5.

As a concerned resident, I volunteer to help plan for and promote the management of invasive plants.

Respectfully,
Tomas Dundzila
Eliot, Maine
703-507-3048
TomasMya @ gmail.com

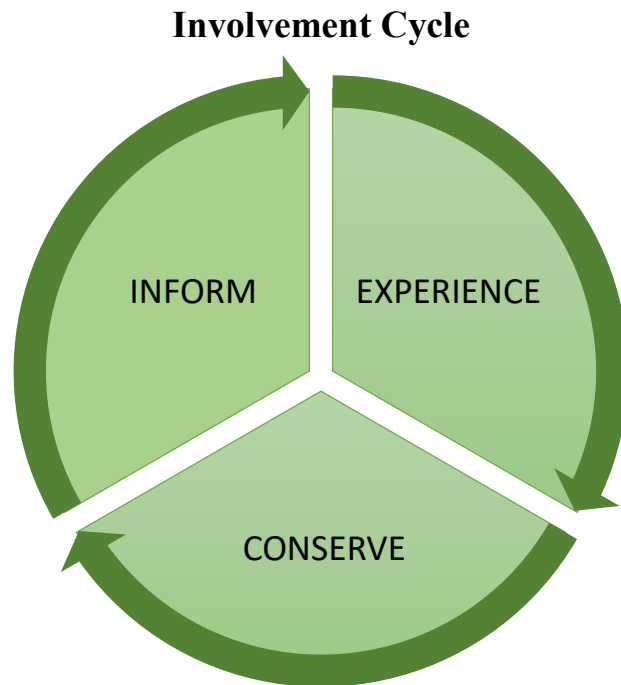
¹ Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.
<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/invasiveplants.shtml>

Resources of Eliot Maine



Eliot is a wonderful place and consists of people, community groups, and municipal services. The people are individuals and families, residents and visitors, business owners and employees. Community groups include garden clubs, public and private schools, churches, scouts, Rotary clubs, fraternal organizations, hunting & fishing clubs, golfing groups, etc. Municipal services include the Town's structure, including the Eliot Conservation Commission, Town Manager, Select Board, Planning Board, other boards, committees, and departments. Not displayed are local and regional resources, such as neighboring municipalities, land trusts, county and state offices. Every part of the triangle, plus local and regional resources, should be involved in successfully managing invasive plants.

To involve the resources depicted above, each will need to be informed of the conditions; experience the impact of native, non-native and invasive plants; and conserve the environment. Ideally the cycle will be continuous.



By weaving together the Resources of Eliot and the Involvement Cycle, a Resource Involvement Action table emerges.

Resource Involvement Actions

	INFORM Monthly	EXPERIENCE Quarterly	CONSERVE Continuously
People	Native Plants Invasive Plants Flyers & Posters ECC Website, Facebook	Visit Monitor Report ² Contact Municipality	Invasive Plant Cleanup Day (Cut & Pull) Plant Natives
Community Groups	Public Programs Virtual Programs Organization Meetings Flyers & Posters	Recruit Visit Monitor Report	Cut & Pull Plant Natives Contact Municipality
Municipal Services	ECC Planning Board Select Board Town Manager	ID Priority Locations Inventory Monitor	Coordinate, Plan & Control Development Approvals & Contracts Review and Improve Ordinances

Inform Monthly

- Prepare and distribute a one page flyer identifying an invasive plant and suggesting a native plant option.
 - Post electronic version on ECC website and Facebook
 - Present virtual (live or recorded) program at Fogg Library
- Attend community group meetings and make brief presentations (virtual or in-person).
- Speak with municipal services (commissions, boards, and departments) about invasive plants.

Experience Quarterly

- Organize weekday and weekend walks to provide people and community groups an opportunity to experience the outdoors and learn about native and invasive plants.
- Encourage people and community groups to monitor and report invasive plants using the phone app iMapInvasives³.
- At the municipal level, identify priority conservation locations, inventory the native and invasive plants, and monitor their abundance.

Conserve Continuously

- Organize invasive plant cleanup days three times per year, when people and organizations will cut and pull invasive plants in a targeted area.

² Phone App iMapInvasives

³ Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, iMapInvasives - Report It.
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/imap.htm

- Encourage people and organizations to plant natives at home and in public areas (with proper coordination and permission).
- At the municipal level -
 - Coordinate invasive plant control efforts with neighboring municipalities, county and state agencies, Native Americans, and Land Trusts.
 - Plan and implement a municipal strategy to manage invasive plants.⁴ Formally identify sensitive areas and establish thresholds that will trigger action.
 - Include an invasive plant threat assessment in the development review process.
 - Require municipal resources and contractors to clean their equipment before starting work, minimize soil disturbances, revegetate disturbed areas with native plants, and preform follow-up inspections.
 - Revise ordinances to include invasive plant management as necessary.

Draft Calendar

2021			
	January	February	March
Inform Invasive Plant Flyer	Asiatic Bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus) ⁵	Common Reed (Phragmites australis) ⁶	TBD
Inform Monitor			iMapInvasives Training
Experience Visit	Town Forest ⁷ / York Pond Area ⁸ orientation	Eliot Boat Basin / Dead Duck ⁹ orientation	Spinney Creek ¹⁰ orientation
Conserve Coordinate, Plan & Control	Meet Town Manager	Attend Select Board meeting	Attend Planning Board meeting

Respectfully,
Tomas Dundzila
Eliot Maine

⁴ "Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants: Best Management Practices for Land Managers" by the California Invasive Plant Council. PDF version: <https://www.cal-ipc.org/docs/bmps/dd9jwo1ml8vttq9527zjhek99qr/BMPLandManager.pdf>

⁵ Bittersweet. https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/celastrus.htm

⁶ Reed. https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/phragmites.htm

⁷ Town Forest. https://www.eliotmaine.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4386/f/uploads/town_forest.pdf

⁸ York Pond. https://www.eliotmaine.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4386/f/uploads/york_pond_area.pdf

⁹ Dead Duck. https://www.eliotmaine.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4386/f/uploads/dead_duck.pdf

¹⁰ Spinney Creek. https://www.eliotmaine.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4386/f/uploads/spinney_creek.pdf