

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

**DATE: May 1, 2019  
APPROVED: June 5, 2019**

**OFFICERS:**

**Chair: Kari Moore**

**Vice Chair: Kimberly Richards**

**Secretary: Lisa Wise**

**Treasurer: Lisa Wise**

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2 The meeting was called to order at 6:34PM at the Eliot Town Hall. Video appears to be up and running.

3  
4 **In attendance:** Lisa Wise, Kari Moore; *absent: Kimberly Richards*

5  
6 **New England Cottontail Update, Jeff Tash, US Fish and Wildlife Service Public Input** – Jeff Tash had to postpone  
7 – hopefully our June 5 meeting (to be confirmed). Jeff works with landowners to support cottontail habitat. The  
8 Chagnons are interested in Jeff's presentation. They've been working with Natural Resources Conservation Service  
9 (NRCS), Fish and Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife Service is working on a voluntary national wildlife refuge (Great  
10 Thicket) in ME, NH, MA. Jeff said Eliot is a hotspot for cottontail habitat. There is a landowner interest letter for  
11 the Great Thicket project (see ECC webpage). State funding for cottontail habitat may be available. Kari: Send the  
12 Chagnons Jeff's contact info, and follow up with Jeff to confirm date.

13  
14 **Review and Approve Past Minutes:** Review April minutes at next meeting.

15 *Update on Action Items from April meeting*

- 16 • Lisa confirmed our membership with ME Association of Conservation Commissions (MEACC)
- 17 • Kari: Purchase vernal pool supplies.
- 18 • Lisa: Connect with Mary Wicklund, Kari connect with Robert Shapiro re: fall yardscaping workshop
- 19 • Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) workshop – June 5 (time TBD), Melissa Brandt from York County Soil and Water  
20 Conservation District; Lisa confirming with the Library
- 21 • Kari: Check on getting GPS points from Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) for Trevor's Eagle Scout  
22 project at the town forest. Kari checked with Martine (assessor) to see if the town has any plans or boundary  
23 maps available (they don't)
- 24 • Lisa: Schedule town forest visit with district forester → June
- 25 • Kari followed up on the concerns from several citizens about wetland impacts at the transfer station – talked  
26 to Jess McQuade (Dept. of Public Works). They are authorized to have that pile there as part of their MS4  
27 permit; it has erosion control measures around it. They use the material (it doesn't stay there permanently).  
28 Kari asked to ensure the erosion control measures are being maintained. Jess said she would take a look.
- 29 • Kim: Look for Valerie's contact info so Kari can follow up re: vernal pools project

30  
31 **Public Input:** Tom Dundzila, Joni and John Chagnon

- 32 • Tom: Attended Maine Land Trust Network's session on trees and tradition, focused on Emerald Ash Borer  
33 (EAB). Allison Kanoti (state entomologist) presented. Colleen Teerling (another state entomologist) is looking  
34 for volunteers to help set up EAB traps throughout the state. Larvae were discovered in Berwick (February).  
35 The state is planning a research project on EAB in this area. Lisa will share information from Tom.

- 36 • Joni asked about a possible subdivision at the Great Hill Gravel area. Kari hasn't heard anything, but did notice  
37 some tree clearing in that area recently and will follow up.
- 38 • Joni had talked to Jess O'Donoghue last year about concerns along the trolley car track. Still issues with filling  
39 in the wetland, trees are being cut down. Near Slate Hill Road, Rollingwood. ECC had shared those concerns  
40 with the Code Enforcement Officer at the time, but there was some turnover and we never heard back about  
41 it. John looked up the parcel map (Map 65-Lot 42 (Jones)). Kari will pass along the information to the town  
42 manager/code enforcement officer to look into.
- 43 • John mentioned a fundraiser event for Center for Wildlife (5/17): [www.thecenterforwildlife.org/callofthewild](http://www.thecenterforwildlife.org/callofthewild)  
44

45 **Town Meeting: June 11 – ECC Table**

- 46 • Kari can set up in the morning; Lisa can be there in the afternoon; Kari call Wendy to reserve a table; check  
47 with Kim re: availability  
48

49 **Financial Report:**

- 50 • MEACC membership has gone through (\$150)  
51 • Lisa worked with town treasurer to initiate payment to Center for Wildlife for the 5/15 event, Natural  
52 Neighbors, at the library (\$167.49)  
53

54 **Education/Outreach**

55 *Speaker series*

- 56 • Vernal Pool Training has been cancelled (5/2)  
57 • 5/15 Center for Wildlife – PUBLICIZE  
58 • 6/10 Emerald Ash Borer workshop – PUBLICIZE  
59 • Late summer/fall yardscaping workshop – TBD  
60

61 *Spring cleanup (5/11)*

- 62 • Kari connected with Joel about potential locations – looking at Beech Road. An awesome Eliot citizen went out  
63 recently and cleaned up Beech Road from 236 up toward Goodwin Road. Joni mentioned Brixham Road  
64 (GWRLT property?) also has a lot of trash. Kari made a motion to hold a cleanup at Beech Road, 5/11  
65 afternoon (3-4pm?); Lisa seconded; all in favor; motion is approved. Kari: Follow up with DPW, Police, Dana,  
66 Jay Meyer (signs?); Lisa: Publicity  
67

68 **Vernal Pool Citizen Science Project:**

- 69 • Kari is meeting with Dr. Aram Calhoun, Wells Reserve, Kittery Land Trust tomorrow re: coordinating future  
70 volunteer efforts. We will get the GIS data for the potential vernal pools. Kari talked to Martine about putting  
71 it on the town's GIS. Aram is also working with Gulf of Maine Research Institute on a vernal pool citizen  
72 science module, which should be ready by next year.  
73

74 **Town Conservation Areas, Mapping and Hiking Trails, Great Works Land Trust:**

75 *Forest Management and Trail Project – Eagle Scout*

- 76 • Discussed submitting a request to the Select Board to consider establishing a parking area for 2-3 cars on a  
77 town-owned parcel to improve access to the town forest. Could incorporate into Recreational Trails Program  
78 grant application. Kari made a motion to submit a letter to the Select Board with this request. Lisa seconded.  
79 All in favor. Motion accepted. Kari? Draft letter to review at next meeting.

- 80 • Great Works' informational kiosk still in process
- 81 • Lisa will coordinate with district forester to schedule a visit to the town forest
- 82 • Kari tried to visit the town forest off Johnson Lane, but access is unclear
- 83 • Dana recently received a letter from a landowner who's interested in selling the town a parcel (about 10
- 84 acres) adjacent to the town forest parcels off Johnson Lane (\$18,600). Overlaps well with map of potential
- 85 vernal pools. If the ECC is interested in pursuing conservation of this parcel through land bank funds, Dana
- 86 suggested we submit a letter to the Select Board. Kari made a motion to submit a letter to Dana and the
- 87 Select Board for consideration of purchase of that parcel for the town forest. Lisa seconded the motion. All in
- 88 favor. Motion approved. Kari will draft letter and send to Lisa and Kim to review.
- 89

90 **Project Development/Permit Review:** New dock at 279 River Road. Planning Board has 495 Harold Dow Road on  
91 their agenda – Sweet Dirt modification to their site plan.

### 92 **Roundtable**

#### 93 *1. Commission members*

- 94 • Lisa reported out on the MEACC annual meeting (4/27). Amanda Shearin (Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and
- 95 Wildlife (DIFW)) presented about conservation in a changing climate. Fred Snow will be sharing links from
- 96 Amanda. Fred presented about the importance of comprehensive plans. Then there was a roundtable of
- 97 conservation commission updates. Many are doing similar work (vernal pools, town forests, trails).
- 98 • Lisa shared the newly available application for the Recreational Trails Grant Program. Lisa will prepare a
- 99 summary for the next meeting. Schedule a work session to discuss further.
- 100 • Kari: [Maine Community Foundation's Fund for Maine Land Conservation](#) – working landscapes, public
- 101 access/recreational, sensitive ecological areas, greater appreciation of the environment (due 10/15)
- 102 • Lisa: [Municipal Planning Assistance Program's Coastal Community Grants](#) – sustainable, vibrant coastal
- 103 communities; coastal public access; water quality; coastal habitat restoration; preparing for storms, erosion,
- 104 flooding, coastal hazards (due 6/3)
- 105 • Postcard: Eastern Trail Alliance 2019 meeting, Wednesday, May 8, 6-8pm, \$10 suggested donation, Vinegar
- 106 Hill Music Theatre, Arundel. Lisa: post [link](#) on Facebook.
- 107
- 108

#### 109 *2. Non-commission members (nothing to add)*

- 110 • [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) (due 11/22)
- 111 • John is a board member for GWRLT and can ask them about ideas for the funding opportunities. GWRLT is
- 112 looking for another board member from Eliot (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday).
- 113 • Tom: York County Audubon has a monthly speaker series – [June 18, Judy Camuso \(new Commissioner of](#)
- 114 [DIFW\) on the state of Maine's Wildlife, at the Wells Reserve](#)
- 115

116 **Next meeting:** June 5, 6:30pm

117  
118 Lisa made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kari seconded. All in favor. Adjourned at 7:57pm.

119  
120 Respectfully submitted,

121  
122 Lisa Wise

123 Secretary, ECC

124 Cc: Eliot Town Clerk, Commission Members, Commission File