

Eaton Conservation Commission

January 9, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Holly Fortin, Heather McKendry, Tom Head, Robin Nuccio, Dick Fortin. Also present were alternates Paul Nuccio, Dick Brisbois and volunteer Dagmar Von Schwerin.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes for the December 12 meeting were approved as amended.

3. **TREASURER’S REPORT** -

Conservation Fund -	\$6,146.56
Forest Management Fund -	\$68,356.64
Land Acquisition Fund -	\$15,582.00
Foss Mt. Fund-	\$9,708.82

TOTAL	\$99,743.02
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Donation Box Income – At trailhead \$6.00

Website donation \$50 (\$48.06) after fees.

Motion made to reimburse Heather McKendry \$12 for website cost. Voted unanimously. Dagmar will look into the best way to pay this fee going forward.

4. **SELECTMAN’S REPORT** - A Shoreland Permit application was reviewed for Crystal Lake and the George Diller property. The application was found complete.

5. **PLANNING BOARD REPORT** – Marnie report for Dennis Sullivan. PB is processing a subdivision and reviewing wording and definitions in the Town’s Zoning Ordinances.

6. **FOSS MT. MANAGEMENT** – Chair brought Commission up to date regarding interested blueberry growers. To date ECC has received two inquiries and conducted one interview with Sam Crocker. He is proposing an ecosystem approach to growing blueberries on Town fields. They would remain organic. The fields would be treated to increase a healthy soil biota. This system has proven itself in the western part of the country and he is confident that having a healthy, diverse soil substrate will increase yields. He discussed his marketing strategies, schedule and the desire to camp on the mountain during the growing season. The ECC had no objections to his approach and request for housing. Further discussion will take place before a final decision is made.

There was serious trail erosion as a result of the last snow/rain storm. The runoff made numerous cuts in the trail surface that will need to be addressed in the spring. The Commission discussed fast forwarding hiring a trail crew to this summer as a result of the damage that occurred.

7. **TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** - Dennis Sullivan is working on reconciling deed descriptions with know Town land boundaries and is running into a few difficulties. He will continue his efforts.

Reference was made to the 2001 Management Plan and the issue of town land lines needing attention. Not a new issue for the Commission.

Jackson Town Forest lines have been completed. It was suggested that the ECC contact Kurt Wilson, who recently bought land in Eaton and works in computer technology, to see if he would be willing to work with Dennis Sullivan and become familiar with the NRI.

8. **COMMUNITY COHORT** – Dick will continue to reach out to Matt Tarr for a Feb. wildlife Conservation Conversation. If Matt is not available he will try to contact Rick van de Poll, local wetlands scientist, or Bob Cottrell from the Conway Library Historical Room.

9. **LAKES** – Commission briefly reviewed the GMCG water test report for the summer of 2022. It was noted the report indicated the outlet was trending to alkaline and that Conductivity readings had seen a slight increase.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS** - Marnie inquired and reminded the Commission of the year end report that would be coming due for the Town Report.

Commission made a quick outline of potential expenses for the coming year including but not limited to the following items. Trail work \$?, continuing to fill holes in the blueberry fields \$400, mowing blueberry fields \$3000, purchasing a new Conductivity meter \$200, Tin Mountain Camp scholarships \$1000. Heather, Robin, Dagmar and Paul will brainstorm some fundraising ideas and will report to the Commission.

Next meeting:

February 13, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Fortin

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 13, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Holly Fortin, Heather McKendry, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head, Dick Fortin. Also present was Dagmar Von Schwerin.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the Jan 9 meeting were accepted as amended.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT** -

Conservation Fund	\$6146.61
Forest Management Fund	\$68,306.24
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,582.14
Foss Mountain Fund	\$9756.95
TOTAL	\$99,791.94
Donation box at trailhead	\$20

Motion made to accept the Treasurer's report. Voted unanimously.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** - the Warrant Article to transfer \$20K from the Forest Management Fund to the Conservation Fund will not be necessary. Both the DRA and the Town Auditor agreed it could just be transferred from one account to the other. Cima's request for a driveway permit off the Old Perkins Road onto the Brownfield Road was denied by DOT. They felt there was no indication Cima's deed delineated any right to access his lot from the Brownfield Road. The Commission was informed there will be some LUCT forthcoming.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – PB working on a Steep slope / RidgeLine question off the Lary Road. The house location had to be adjusted so as not to be seen from Rt. 153 in the proximity of King Pine Ski area. Input will be required from the Conservation Commission. PB is proposing a 100 foot buffer around all wetlands.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** - Chair shared a recent email from Sam Crocker, potential blueberry grower, that gave an update of his ideas for the lease on Foss. It included growing other crops in the fields such as strawberries, melons and grapes. His lease would also require being able to live fulltime on the land. The Commission voted to inform Mr. Crocker his requests and suggestions did not line up with the Commission's goals and would not be able to sign a lease agreement with him.

The Board voted to pursue the Brownfield Market contact and Timothy Gould, of South Conway as pickers for this summer's season. A one year lease will be discussed with both parties.

The application for a NH Fish & Game Habitat grant was signed and submitted for \$2097.00

Marnie read correspondence from John Neely, US Forest Service, regarding a potential burn in the spring of 2023 in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife.

The Commission voted to hire Ryan Harvey to repair the Foss trail. Dick will contact him to confirm his availability, final cost estimate and try to establish when he could get the work done. Dagmar and Marnie will begin working on grants as soon as there is a more solid dollar amount. Heather suggested we ramp up fundraising efforts to cover some of the cost via the Web site. Trail closure was discussed for up to two weeks.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Conservation Conversation coming up on Thursday Feb. 23, at 6:30pm at the Town Hall. The discussion will be on wildlife. Dick submitted a NH Natural Heritage Bureau "Landowner's request" to determine if there are any records of endangered species on Town Lands.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - Marnie acquired a number of field maps and survey maps from Dan Stepanauskas. The Thorne Map will be helpful as it contains many bearings and distances on property lines. Marnie will continue to pursue any maps Sewall Co. may have as they wrote up the Management Plan as part of the "Ice Storm 98" grant.

9. OTHER BUSINESS – Marnie gave a summary of the Jan. meeting of the CLCA. Topics included stricter regulations on Conway Lake than the States, Lake Host program, new concerns regarding invisible invasive larvae attaching to boats using the lake.

Marnie will contact John Border regards setting out a new duck box at the Giles Place.

Dick reviewed Conductivity pens and the Commission voted to spend up to \$200 to include the pen and some calibration fluid.

Dagmar is working with Robin setting up Quick Books and how to switch the annual payment for the Foss website from an individual to the ECC.

Dick will talk to Bob Cottrell about doing a stone wall talk in April.

Next meeting:

March 13, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm

Respectfully submitted by Richard Fortin

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 13, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Robin Nuccio, Heather McKendry, Dick Brisbois, and Tom Head. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin, Enna Carbone, and Paul Nuccio.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the February 13 meeting were accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$6,146.66
Forest Management Fund	68,306.76
Foss Mountain Fund	9,757.02
Land Acquisition Fund	15,582.26

TOTAL	<hr/> \$99,792.70
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Donation box at trailhead \$0
Website Donation Income \$0

Voted unanimously to accept Treasurer's report.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** Selectmen voted against an insurance waiver for the Mennonite blueberry picker feeling the policy should be consistent for all berry pickers on Foss. Several women were stranded 2 ½ miles in from Porter on Willis Bean Road, led there by GPS, requiring a rescue effort by Fish and Game. Potential signage warning of GPS problems discussed.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** PB now meets the third Wednesday of each month. PB is working on amending our current Wetland Conservation Overlay Zone based on a model ordinance from NH DES. They encourage input from ECC. In the past ECC member Paul Savchick was qualified to review applications and wetland issues. ECC discussed how to build our awareness in this field.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** The Mennonite candidate won't be picking blueberries this year for personal reasons. A lease agreement is being discussed with Timo Gould of South Conway. Dick and Marnie will renegotiate the contract with Ryan Bushnell for blueberry picking. Olivia Saunders of UNH Cooperative Extension offered to come pre-harvest and offer any support to Timo.

Paul suggested adding table tents in the Henney Room at the Library, particularly as the EVS will be closing prior to May 1. The group agreed Paul could talk to the Library. There is a need to balance fundraising with increased visibility that may lead to more overuse of Foss trails.

Marnie read updated correspondence from John Neely, US Forest Service, and Ted Kendziora, USFW regarding a potential burn in the future.

Marnie and Dagmar discussed grant options. The Pequawket Foundation grant application, due April 15, will be submitted - maximum amount \$2,500. ECC / Foss Mountain as a 170 (c) municipality is not eligible on its own for Davis Conservation Foundation or the NH Charitable Funds (due to IRS regulations) but could submit in future through the EVPS which is a 501 (c). The Selectmen would

have to weigh in on whether EVPS would get involved. The NH State Parks Recreational Trail grant and Climate Resilience Funds will be researched further for potential in 2024. Discussion moved to starting a targeted fundraiser with a goal to raise \$20,000 by June 2023. Heather, Robin, Dagmar and Paul will meet and present platforms and ideas at the April meeting.

Dick will contact Ryan Harvey about the Foss trail work to confirm his availability, final cost estimate and timeline for getting the work done. He will need 50% at signing of the agreement, approximately \$10,000.

7. FOREST MANAGEMENT - Marnie has acquired and repaired field maps and survey maps from Dan Stepanauskas. Heather will scan Dan's notes and put them on the ECC google site. Two copies of Thorne-Surveys map 1999/2000 of Town lands have been made from Dan's copy and are stored in the file cabinets.

Dan Stepanauskas will be submitting a timber stand improvement proposal. Porter Road and Willis Bean are in such bad condition that they may pose a problem for forestry management.

8. COMMUNITY COHORT - ECC reviewed the well-received and well attended discussion on Thursday March 9 with Matt Tarr, Wendy Scribner, and Dan Stepanauskas. Informal Q&A provided invaluable information on habitat, guidelines for collecting wildlife data, trail impact on wildlife, and the unique qualities of Eaton township with relatively large tracts of open space providing unfragmented habitats for wildlife and flora. Matt Tarr will be teaching less and therefore has more time available to work with communities. He would like to do a field trip up Foss and help us structure information gathering. He felt we already have important tools available with Dan's maps and the NRI.

Marnie will send an email to Dan Stepanauskas requesting an invoice for his time.

The next Community Cohort is scheduled for April 13. Bob Cotrell will talk about Stone Walls using LYDAR in an interactive presentation which Dennis Sullivan will help organize. He is willing to do a field trip on Saturday April 15 from 9:00 - 11:00. The group discussed potential walks - Paul Hill Road, McBriens, Snow Village Inn, Young's Road - and will decide on final walk site. Bob said he would not need to be paid for the presentation, but might want some fee for the walk. Dick F. will check with him.

Marnie proposed a future Community Cohort with hands-on book making - creating notebooks to keep track of flora and fauna found in the woods that could be shared with the ECC and provide some info on species to look out for. Marnie will submit a proposal at the next meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS – *ECC voted to again approve \$1,000 for partial scholarships for several students to attend summer programs at Tin Mountain Conservation Center. Judy Fowler will handle applications and awards. ECC is looking for an apprentice to help Judy and learn the process.*

ECC discussed the letter written to Governor Sununu by NHACC regarding the State bill proposing to remove licensing requirements for foresters and wetland specialists in NH. *The group voted to send a letter in support of the NHACC's letter to keep the current licensing requirements.*

Research continues to clarify allowable use of Land Acquisition Fund.

Next steps for ECC Group would retain focus on protecting Town Lands - honing the conservation plan, holding public conservation meetings, ground truthing with volunteer help, ensuring that any new

trails make the least impact on the land possible. The group will set up a meeting with Matt Tarr to work on action items. ECC meetings can also be work sessions to get things done.

Next meeting: April 10, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

Minutes respectfully taken by Dagmar VonSchewrin, submitted by Judy Fowler

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 10, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Robin Nuccio, Heather McKendry, and Dick Brisbois. Also present were Dennis Sullivan, Dagmar von Schwerin, Enna Carbone, and alternates Paul Nuccio and Judy Fowler.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the March 13 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$6,146.71
Forest Management Fund	\$68,307.34
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,582.39
Foss Mountain Fund	\$11,877.10
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TOTAL	\$101,913.54
Donation box at trailhead	\$0
Website Donation Income	\$0

Treasurer's report was approved. ECC voted to approve payment of \$239.53 for the new conductivity meter. ECC voted to move \$20,000 from Eaton Forest Management Fund to Eaton Conservation Fund. Bank of NH has agreed to increase the interest rate on ECC accounts to 1.8%

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** - Dick Fortin will continue to serve as the Selectmen's Representative on the ECC. An application for a May 20 wedding on Foss had been approved, however, the wedding party will need to be re-contacted to discuss the scheduled spring burn and trail work on Foss. The Selectmen recommend watching a "First Amendment" training video produced by the NH Municipal Association that discusses recommended approaches to these audits. Names were gathered of those interested in watching the training to share with the town administrator.

5. **PLANNING BOARD REPORT** – EPB Chair Dennis Sullivan presented a new building application for ECC to review as it is subject to both the Steep Slope Protection Overlay Zone and the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance. ECC discussed slope gradient, drainage issues and sightlines for the two proposed building sites. ECC will send a letter outlining concerns and recommendations to the PB for their meeting on the 12th.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT - Foss Trail Fundraising Committee - Heather produced a spreadsheet outlining multiple fundraising platforms. The committee will present a proposal to the Selectmen at their April 18 or May 2 meeting, and if approved, ECC will vote on it in May.

ECC is submitting an application to the Pequawket Foundation for \$2,500 to rebuild Foss trails. US Fish & Wildlife has secured funding for a burn on Foss to maintain habitat, in particular for the endangered Yellow-Banded Bumblebee. (note: ECC can apply to the State to conduct a study of Foss insect populations). ECC will contribute \$2,000.

Star Tree Wildfire Protection LLC will subcontract burning, within the month if weather allows. Trail and roads will be closed. If only certain areas can be burned, ECC recommends prioritizing Brooks Pasture and the Ridge out to the south end. If all of Foss can be burned, it may put all blueberries on the same rotation, but is worth getting the entire ridge done. ECC needs to clear the lines around the perimeter in preparation for the burn. Dick estimates 1-2 full work days with chain saw and back-pack leaf blowers. We will need volunteers for potentially Friday April 28 or the week after, depending on conditions and projected burn date.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Beith Griffith would like to attend the next ECC meeting to discuss the Grove.

An informal Tin Mountain Bird Survey Program was discussed for Foss - ECC consensus is that the less formal Option 2 is easier to implement and thus more suited to our conservation plan to get people engaged. *ECC voted to make up to a \$400 donation from the Henney Conservation Fund.*

Marnie and Dick will review the blueberry leases and have them ready to sign in early June. Holly will send a thank you card to John Border for his challenging job installing a nesting box on Porter Road mid-winter. Thanks to Dick Brisbois who built the house.

Next meeting: May 8, 2023 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully taken by Dagmar von Schwerin and submitted by Judy Fowler

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 8, 2023 – Final Amended

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Robin Nuccio, Heather McKendry, Paul Nuccio and alternate Judy Fowler. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin and Enna Carbone.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the April 10 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT -

Conservation Fund	\$26,146.84
Forest Management Fund	\$11,877.78
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,582.51
Foss Mountain Fund	\$48,307.78
TOTAL	\$101,914.32
Donation box at trailhead	\$0
Website Donation Income	\$0

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** - Selectmen's report was to remind us that if anyone from our board wants to go on a property in an official capacity, we have to get permission from the landowner.

5. **PLANNING BOARD REPORT** – The Board held a public hearing about the John Perrie property off of Lary Road overlooking Purity Lake. The Board had a preliminary meeting with George Diller who owns property on Crystal Lake Road abutting Crystal Lake.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** - The FWS burn at Foss Mountain is scheduled for Tuesday May 9. Marnie walked the fire lines with the burn crew who were pleased with the preparation/clearing work done by volunteers.

Ryan Harvey, proposed contractors for trail work on Foss, walked the trail and due to severe damage from the recent rain storm, they increased their estimate to \$26,900, excluding materials, bringing the cost to around \$27,500. Work will begin in July at the earliest. As the trail is unsafe in its

current condition, ECC members agreed that signage would be necessary to warn the public. Dick will check with the Town attorney about liability and whether the trail should be closed entirely. ECC voted to allot costs up to \$30,000 for the trail repair. Maintenance of the trail each year will help prevent recurring damage, although this year's storm seemed to be unique in its impact on town roads and trails.

Sulphur will need to be spread.

Marnie will write letters to local camps regarding the use of Foss for large groups, mentioning the state of the trails and the fundraiser.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Discussion of fundraising push for Foss trail. The NHACC has experience via its members using Stripe instead of PayPal to accept payments and donations. The ECC agreed that the current PayPal account would be closed and a new Stripe account set up in the town administrator's name and the ECC treasurer's name, using the Town's tax number. Heather and the fundraising group will select a platform to work with Stripe. The group discussed hosting an event (presence at July 4 beach picnic, music at the Church), visibility (signs on Foss Mtn Road, Eaton Ears) and using social media to reach people in and outside of Eaton who use the trail. Perks to be offered could include art prints of Foss, private painting sessions, birding tours, and Foss Mountain road signs. Social media will be key. Photos of the poor condition of the trail can be put to use to illustrate need and elicit interest.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - no issues

9. COMMUNITY COHORT - no issues

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Willis Bean Road was severely damaged in the December and May storms at the Kenard Road end. The bridges are in excellent condition.

Dan Stepanauskas will mark the new boundary at McBrien's with Bruce McBrien.

ECC concurred that Beth Griffin will need to talk to the Select board rather than the ECC about protecting the Grove at the lake as this area is not under ECC jurisdiction.

Dick will contact Camp Waukeela (Abby Sparks is the liaison) to alert them about the need to file a DES dredge and fill permit for work to repair the shore across from the camp - a 75-day permit application. Waukeela could consider reducing the beach size, and focus on a smaller beach front, and harden it against future flooding events. NH DOT may be involved in repairing the eroded road.

Marnie will be meeting a Tin Mountain representative for a bird walk on Friday - this will take place once a month. Anyone can join in.

Next meeting:

June 6, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully taken by Dagmar von Schwerin, submitted by Judy Fowler

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 8, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Robin Nuccio, Heather McKendry, Paul Nuccio and alternate Judy Fowler. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin and Enna Carbone.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the April 10 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT -

Conservation Fund	\$26,146.84
Forest Management Fund	\$11,877.78
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,582.51
Foss Mountain Fund	\$48,307.78
TOTAL	\$101,914.32
Donation box at trailhead	\$0
Website Donation Income	\$0

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** - Selectmen's report was to remind us that if anyone from our board wants to go on a property in an official capacity, we have to get permission from the landowner.

5. **PLANNING BOARD REPORT** – The Board held a public hearing about the John Perrie property off of Lary Road overlooking Purity Lake. The Board had a preliminary meeting with George Diller who owns property on Crystal Lake Road abutting Crystal Lake.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** - The FWS burn at Foss Mountain is scheduled for Tuesday May 9. Marnie walked the fire lines with the burn crew who were pleased with the preparation/clearing work done by volunteers.

Ryan Harvey, proposed contractors for trail work on Foss, walked the trail and due to severe damage from the recent rain storm, they increased their estimate to \$26,900, excluding materials, bringing the cost to around \$27,500. Work will begin in July at the earliest. As the trail is unsafe in its current condition, ECC members agreed that signage would be necessary to warn the public. Dick will check with the Town attorney about liability and whether the trail should be closed entirely. ECC voted to allot costs up to \$30,000 for the trail repair. Maintenance of the trail each year will help prevent recurring damage, although this year's storm seemed to be unique in its impact on town roads and trails.

Sulphur will need to be spread.

Marnie will write letters to local camps regarding the use of Foss for large groups, mentioning the state of the trails and the fundraiser.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Discussion of fundraising push for Foss trail. The NHACC has experience via its members using Stripe instead of PayPal to accept payments and donations. The ECC agreed that the current PayPal account would be closed and a new Stripe account set up in the town administrator's name and the ECC treasurer's name, using the Town's tax number. Heather and the fundraising group will select a platform to work with Stripe. The group discussed hosting an event (presence at July 4 beach picnic, music at the Church), visibility (signs on Foss Mtn Road, Eaton Ears) and using social media to reach people in and outside of Eaton who use the trail. Perks to be offered could include art prints of Foss, private painting sessions, birding tours, and Foss Mountain road signs. Social media will be key. Photos of the poor condition of the trail can be put to use to illustrate need and elicit interest.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - no issues

9. COMMUNITY COHORT - no issues

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Dick and Paul will walk Willis Bean Rd to assess the end near Brownfield Road which is in rough shape. The bridges are in excellent condition.

Dan Stepanauskas will mark the new boundary at McBrien's with Bruce McBrien.

ECC concurred that Beth Griffin will need to talk to the Select board rather than the ECC about protecting the Grove at the lake as this area is not under ECC jurisdiction.

Dick will contact Camp Waukeela (Abby Sparks is the liaison) to alert them about the need to file a DES dredge and fill permit for work to repair the shore across from the camp - a 75-day permit application. Waukeela could consider reducing the beach size, and focus on a smaller beach front, and harden it against future flooding events. NH DOT may be involved in repairing the eroded road.

Marnie will be meeting a Tin Mountain representative for a bird walk on Friday - this will take place once a month. Anyone can join in.

Next meeting:

June 6, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully taken by Dagmar von Schwerin, submitted by Judy Fowler

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 12, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Robin Nuccio, Heather McKendry, Paul Nuccio and alternate Judy Fowler. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin and Enna Carbone.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the May 8 meeting were accepted.*

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT** -

Conservation Fund	\$25,949.38
Forest Management Fund	\$48,385.96
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,607.73
Foss Mountain Fund	\$11,896.41
TOTAL	<hr/> \$101,839.48
Donation box at trailhead	\$137.00
Website Donation Income	\$0

Treasurer's report was accepted.

Star Tree invoice for \$2,000.00 submitted, to be paid out of Foss Mountain Fund - voted and accepted.

Pequawket Fund Grant accepted by Selectmen - to be deposited into Foss Mountain Fund.

The agreed-upon donation of \$400 to Tin Mountain will be sent in and then reimbursed by the Henney Fund.

4. **SELECTMENS REPORT** - Logging begins accessed via Bean Road. Mariner Towers will complete a feasibility study regarding cell service for the Town of Eaton. The board had a range of questions and responses.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** - ECC discussed discrepancies in regulations regarding the allowable length of docks in NH lakes over 1,000 acres in size. In Eaton, our only such water body is Conway Lake. The Town of Conway allows 30' max and the Town of Eaton and NH State allow 40'

max. ECC passed a motion to advise the Planning Board to add language that standardizes the maximum dock length in Conway Lake (or lakes over 1,000 acres) to match the 30' max extension allowed by the Town of Conway.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT - Marnie reported on the prescribed burn at Foss with Ted Kendziora and John Neely of USFWS and Star Tree. 70 acres were successfully burned, leaving soil and life within undamaged. A burn with USFWS every 3-5 years would be ideal.

Although rough re-grading completed by Dick and Holly, Tom Rose, Hunter Matthews and Marnie has helped restore the trail, the repairs will not survive future rain events. As a full rebuilding of the trail seemed out of scale in terms of cost, a revised proposal of \$6,100 was submitted by Ryan Harvey to regrade the existing trail bed and add numerous water bars that will be maintained by volunteers. Proposal includes labor with volunteers (including Dick Fortin and Tom Rose) bringing materials to the crew via tractor. Reconstruction is scheduled for the week of July 10-14th with rain dates for July 17-21. Stubby Heath submitted a proposal to regrade, ditch and add water bars to the access road from the cellar hole to the parking lot for \$2,000. Total for trail work will be approximately \$9,000. The trail will need to be closed during construction. ECC will advertise, investigate All Trails alerts, prepare signage and tape off access points as well as gathering volunteers to help keep people from hiking up to Foss during that time.

Stripe can now process donations through the existing QR code and will be connected to a fundraising platform. The campaign for trail repair and overall maintenance will begin as quickly as possible, targeting a total of \$15,000 in funds beyond the \$2,500 granted by the Pequawket Fund. The campaign was approved by the Select Board. ECC voted to proceed.

The Foss website Home page will be updated to showcase the fundraiser, the Pequawket grant, and current notices including the planned closure of the trail in July. The notice about trail safety will remain for legal reasons.

Marnie and Dick will reach out to Ryan about blueberries that survived the burn to see if he would like to sign a lease contract for this year.

Marnie attended a workshop run by the NH Recreational Trails Program. This is a well-run and also highly demanding grant requiring that someone

be dedicated to obtaining and then managing the grant. The ECC should consider applying for this grant for future large-scale projects.

Marnie shared a letter to local camps regarding the use of Foss for large groups, mentioning the state of the trails and the fundraiser as well as construction closure dates.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Paul has been walking the town land boundaries.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - Marnie walked with Dan Stepanauskas on May 29. Best TSI location would be 12 acres past Heath's towards Maine on the right in the direction of Maine. Dan recommends large stones to block vehicles from the road opposite the White place. If legal issues can be resolved, a gate could control traffic from the Maine line to Willis Bean Road intersection with Foss Mt Rd during off seasons, to prevent ongoing severe damage to the road.

9. COMMUNITY COHORT - no issues

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

ECC will not renew the Farmland Finder ad this year due.

Dick will trim trees regrowing over the blueberries in Brooks and other leased fields at the end of June.

Paul will remove graffiti at Long Pond - he is also testing the water regularly and will coordinate with water testing being done by Enna and her father.

Dick talked to Camp Waukeela's Abby Sparks and Peter Cooperdock, a NH wetland scientist, about restoration of the beach across from the camp. The May 1 storm shifted the beach sand to the shoreline of Crystal lake. Waukeela will have to consult with DES to determine the appropriate way of retrieving the sand and if a permit is required.

Robin will write thank you notes to Volunteers who helped close the road on the day of the burn.

ECC discussed having volunteers spend time on Foss letting people know about ECC efforts - a small card to hand out could encourage donations.

Marnie will be meeting a Tin Mountain representative for a bird walk on Tuesday 6/13 - this will take place once a month. Anyone can join in.

Next meeting:

July 10, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm

Respectfully taken by Dagmar von Schwerin, submitted by Judy Fowler

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 10, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Robin Nuccio, and Paul Nuccio. Also present was Dagmar von Schwerin.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Revised Minutes of the May 8 and Minutes of the June 12 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT -

Conservation Fund	\$25,987.56
Forest Management Fund	\$48,407.12
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,630.69
Foss Mountain Fund	\$14,570.14

TOTAL	<hr/> \$104,595.51
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Donation box at trailhead \$87.00

Website Donations - \$350.00 minus \$12.86 fees, net \$337.14

Treasurer's report was accepted.

\$102.00 in donations from the July 4 picnic will be applied to the Fundraiser. Cards printed to promote the fundraiser cost \$60 - a \$40.00 donation by Stephanie Mathurin and \$20.00 donation from Marnie covered the cost.

Tin Mountain Camp sent an invoice for \$960 - ECC will send a check out of the Conservation Fund as agreed upon at the April meeting and submit the minutes to the Henney Trust Fund for reimbursement.

Stubby Heath submitted a bill for gravel for the Foss Mountain trail for \$1,200, to be paid out of the Foss Mountain Fund. ECC voted approval.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** - no issues

5. **PLANNING BOARD** - The PB is working on amending the current Wetland Conservation Overlay Zone with a buffer of 100 feet and will submit proposed language to ECC to review.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT - Ryan will begin work on the trail July 11, working on water bars with Dick Fortin and Tom Rose while Stubby Heath's crew repairs the lower trail to provide access to Dick and Tom's tractors, which will bring up gravel for the trail. Work may extend beyond July 14th due to rain and mud conditions.

Volunteers spent 30 hours on Foss during the past two weekends greeting 168 visitors and handing out Foss cards - \$350.00 was generated so far.

The Fundraising Campaign launches officially on July 11. ECC reviewed drafts of the email announcing the Fundraiser and the thank you letter that will be sent to donors. The email will be sent to 185 contacts gathered from past communications. ECC members can also forward this email to their contacts. Local contacts will spread the news via their networks. Cheese Louise is promoting the Fundraiser on social media and donating \$5.00 from every sale of their sandwich special in July from both the Kancamagus and Setters' Green locations.

Robin will check with Lianne to make sure Stripe and Fundly platforms are collecting the information Lianne will need for reporting. Robin will notify Dick / the Selectmen of donations of \$250 or more as required by NH Law. Dick will ask the Selectmen to vote on a blanket approval of all donations for this fundraiser.

The contract with Ryan Bushnell for blueberry picking may start later this year. As Ryan is just picking, not managing the fields, ECC will need to find an overall Manager or, if continuing to act as the defacto Manager, prioritize fields and management efforts going forward. Also discussed partnering with various groups who could learn from and work for Ryan including Cheese Louise volunteers (using their freezers?), Tin Mountain, Boy Scouts, 4H, the Mennonites, Americorp, and J1 workers. Work by volunteers can be submitted to MOFGA as part of our organic management.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Paul is walking the town land boundaries to assess survey needs for easements. An anonymous donor might be willing to fund putting town lands under easement, if we decide to do so. ECC will look into this in the fall. Dennis is adding fire burn info to the NRI.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - Discussion of \$2,000-\$3,000 estimate for proposed repair in August of Willis Bean Road from Foss Mountain Road to the old White place. The road is managed by ECC and is important for timber and fire management. However, use by the public especially during mud season is causing ongoing and repeated severe damage. ECC was split on whether repairs would be needed or advantageous, particularly in such a wet year. Signage and a potential gate at the entrance were discussed - if legal issues can be resolved and landowners adjacent to the road agree. ECC agreed to make a field trip to see the situation in person, scheduled for Saturday July 15 at 9:00 am.

9. COMMUNITY COHORT - no issues

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

We have a bird house that needs to be installed, and all our bird and duck houses need to be cleaned this winter. “No Bear Dog” and “No ATV” signs need to be replaced / added this fall.

Paul Nuccio will work with Dick to learn/ take over his brush cutting above the blueberries, as well as trail maintenance.

A thank you note will be delivered to Dick Brisbois prior to August meeting.

Next meeting:

August 14, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, volunteer

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 14 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Heather McKendry, Robin Nuccio, and Paul Nuccio. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin and Enna Carbone.

The ECC paid Dick Brisbois a visit with a card to thank him for his years of service before the meeting began.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the July 10 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$24,666.13
Forest Management Fund	\$48,480.71
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,654.45
Foss Mountain Fund	<u>\$16,158.15</u>
TOTAL	\$104,959.44
Donation box at trailhead	\$180.51
Stripe (Fundly & Website after fees)	\$2,695.78
Checks (fundraiser)	\$7,507.00
Grants (fundraiser)	\$2,750.00
Cheese Louise (fundraiser)	<u>\$715.00</u>
TOTAL FUNDRAISER	\$12,702.78

Three invoices were submitted and approved by ECC:

- Ryan Harvey labor for additional work on trail	\$260.00
- Town of Eaton crew & compactor	\$1,332.94
- Stubby Heath materials and skid steer	\$1,400

ECC approved repairs to Willis Bean Road by remote vote after the 7/15 site visit and voted at the meeting to approve up to \$2,000.00.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. SELECTMEN'S REPORT - The Town established a Capital Improvement Committee to review upcoming major projects and operational costs. Peter Klose, Planning Board Member, researched the possibility of utilizing the ECC Forest Management Fund to pay for some expenses.

ECC will develop a budget and timeline of projected ECC expenses in order to assess needs for ECC's future projects and operational costs. The ECC has historically been self-sufficient - depleting current funds could mean that ECC will need to request funding from the Town in the future.

ECC will review which lands are designated Town Land versus Town Forest in order to clarify applicability of strictures in the New Hampshire legal statutes related to fund expenditures. A Town vote can change the funding purpose of any fund, and can also classify or declassify Town Forest designations. What are drawbacks to naming Town Forests, if any?

Dick talked to Barbara Richter of NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions and will contact town counsel regarding the potential need to have a Town vote on any expenditures from the Forest Management Fund.

ECC discussed whether someone from the ECC should be on the Capital Improvement Committee in order to weigh in on overall spending.

5. PLANNING BOARD - Discussion of Perrie property building plans was continued to August 16 to give owner time to consider providing plans to abutter Ken Cargill and the board time to consult with town counsel about whether such plans are required.

Concerns from Conway Lake owners about the sizeable forestry cut on a ridge off Bean Road were discussed. Eaton's current Ridgeline Protection Ordinance does not cover that viewshed. ECC voted to recommend that the Planning Board add language to the ordinance related to ridgeline building projects (this would not impact forestry cuts) visible from Conway Lake.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT - The fundraiser is very close to reaching its goal of \$15,000. A group of ECC members will get together to send thank you letters to all donors.

The trail repairs are holding up but need remedial work after major rainfalls. Dick had to bring fill back onto the trail again. Dick, Paul and other

volunteers will meet August 19 to top dress dips in the area by the cellar hole with remaining gravel. There is also a pile of fill near the top of the hill for Cheese Louise volunteers when they are available.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - no issues

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - see Selectmen's Report above

9. COMMUNITY COHORT - Harry Vogel of the Loon Preservation Committee would be a good speaker for a future presentation.

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Enna is conducting water testing once per month for ECC and the Green Mountain Conservation Commission at the outlet at Long Pond, Crystal Lake beach and a site along the road at Crystal Lake. All results were in the satisfactory range, with phosphorus staying steady. Conductivity is being watched. Testing for bacteria is mandatory for swimming beaches. Paul Nuccio will get training for more in depth water testing of Long Pond in future, and will coordinate with Bob Craycraft, Mark and Enna Carbone and Dick Fortin.

Concrete fish steps on Snow Brook washed away. Dick will contact John Magee, fish biologist, NH Fish and Game.

Conway Lake Conservation Association will clarify language related to the 100-foot lakefront shoreline setback and wetlands restrictions. Loopholes are allowing portions of properties to cut directly to the lake. The lack of follow-up for compliance is a problem. Eaton' restrictions are enforced by the Select Board and building code, health and safety issues are reviewed for compliance by our building inspector. DES does not provide assessments of potential violations, responding only after formal complaints are filed, which happens mostly after the fact.

Conway Lake had 3,300 boats launched so far this year, with many kayaks and canoes, including by companies when the Saco River was too high. No invasive plant introductions were detected and only non-toxic Cyanobacteria. Conway Lake level will be lowered by 4 feet to work on the dam, October 10. There is definitely more plant growth along the shores of both Conway and Crystal Lakes.

Ryan Bushnell was unable to pick blueberries this year. ECC will continue looking for pickers/managers.

ECC approved up to \$5,000 to hire Horizon Forestry to cut approximately 21 acres on Foss, including 6.5 on the ridge that wasn't burned this spring and all fields south of the old trail. Last year's cost was \$214 per acre.

Christy Foster will make a knotweed presentation to the ECC.

Cliff Cabral will dive to check Crystal Lake for aquatic invasives - estimated cost \$300 - \$400

An old tire left at Foss needs to be brought to the dump.

Next meeting:

September 11, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, volunteer.

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

September 11, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Robin Nuccio, and Paul Nuccio. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin and Enna Carbone.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the August 14 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$24,703.63
Forest Management Fund	\$48,554.41
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,678.25
Foss Mountain Fund	\$17,497.27

TOTAL \$106,433.56

Donation box at trailhead	\$88.30
Website Donation Income	\$0

The Land Acquisition Fund should be renamed the Land Conservation Fund - it was established in March 11 2003 in a Warrant Article begun for the sole purpose of land protection, land acquisition and acquiring conservation easements. The language in our annual report should reflect the original language when it was established.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT - Two properties on Hatch Pond were discussed related to shoreline setback requirements that the ZBA dealt with last year. A Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act application for one of those residences was recently submitted to the State. The application appears to meet State regulations but not Eaton Zoning Ordinances. The surveyor was notified that a Building Permit will be denied as the structure is within 125 feet of the shoreline.

Selectmen processed a number of Building Permits for repairs and two new homes, including one ADU. The Selectmen had an inquiry about a dock replacement on Conway Lake. Docks are now approved by the State with a "Permit by Notification" and have been for some time.

The Selectmen would like to have a Joint Board Meeting sometime this Fall.

There will be a special hearing Tuesday September 19 at 3:00 pm to discuss Willis Bean Road Emergency Lane Declaration (see Town Land Management below).

The Town beach on Crystal Lake was discussed. June and July were particularly busy this summer and parking has become a problem. Selectmen will be meeting with this summer's beach attendants to review how certain issues can be dealt with. Boating activity has increased markedly.

Capital Improvement Committee Report - Dick and Marnie compiled a 10-year budget projecting expenses and income in response to an inquiry as to whether ECC funds could be used to

offset Town expenses. ECC revenue is declining - Dan Stepanauskas, Town Forester, says any further cutting will need to wait 10 - 15 years - and blueberry income is dropping each year. Expenses continue to go up related to burns, cutting, and trail maintenance. From 2002-2020 ECC combined income was \$270,000 and expenses were \$258,000, showing consistent self-sufficiency. What helps keep costs down is the ECC's volunteer effort. The Commission logged over 1,000 combined hours just since 2021. At the end of the presentation the Capital Improvement Committee agreed that ECC monies are spoken for.

5. PLANNING BOARD - The Board approved adding language to Eaton's Ridgeline Protection Ordinance regarding building projects that would be visible from Conway Lake. The Board determined that the Perrie property development would not significantly alter the existing access road across Ken Cargill's land and approved development as meeting ordinance requirements.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT - The fundraiser reached its goal of \$15,000. Marnie, Robin and Dagmar will send thank you letters to all donors.

Marnie spoke to the Mennonite Co-op about being involved in the managing and picking of blueberries on Foss. They are also struggling to find people to work for them. They have been buying from Ryan Bushnell. Marnie and Dick will write up a detailed description of what is needed and discuss further with the Co-op and other potential field managers/pickers.

Dick cut hardwood stumps on Brooks Pasture for the third time. ECC will need to focus on cutting primarily blueberry producing fields going forward as growth of grasses and trees will be impossible to keep up with.

Dick will schedule painting the yellow trail markers at the top of Foss and paint over incorrect markers. The second kiosk by the cellar hole needs to be moved to face away from the sun before it is reprinted. The trail needs one more water bar which Dick and Paul will work on. Water bars also need to be cleaned before leaf drop and ATV and Bear Dog signs need to be posted as needed.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Dick reported to the Selectmen about the estimated \$2,000 repair of Willis Bean Road. Selectmen suggested we contact Town Counsel to discuss whether town funds should be used to repair the road. ECC has historically repaired the road for fire vehicle access and because cars were driving through the Shepard River. The question was raised regarding the road's Class VI status. Towns are not permitted to spend money on Class VI roads. Town Counsel recommended an Emergency Lane Declaration to allow the town to spend money to improve a Class VI road to keep it passable for emergency vehicles. ECC voted to request an Emergency Lane Declaration in order to proceed with repairs. A public hearing is required and will be held Tuesday 9/19 at 3:00 pm to discuss.

Paul continues to walk the town boundaries to assess what loans need work. Some of the lots are challenging with wetlands and steep slopes. Paul will mark up map to show what is done - he is working with Dennis to update the NRI

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - Eaton Town Counsel has clarified language in RSA Section 31:113 related to how Town Forest Funds accumulated over time are to be utilized. The phrase "unless otherwise voted by the legislative body" refers to whether the monies will be allowed to accumulate in the fund rather than granting the town meeting broad authority to appropriate money from the fund for purposes other than forest maintenance.

Town Forest designations - The question was raised whether what the ECC has been calling "Town Forests" are officially Town Forests or not. Town votes on Warrant Articles that did not include the correct references to the appropriate RSAs setting up a "Town Forest" may mean we have Town owned land that is forest. Some simple housekeeping at this March's Town meeting can correct this issue. At this time the Jackson Town Forest, Bloise Lot and the Blanchard Lot may be the only official Town Forest. Generally, the selectmen have the authority to manage all real property owned by the town and regulate its use, however, RSA 41:11-a exempts Town Forests from the selectmen's authority, placing it under the management of the Conservation Commission.

Given this situation the Commission began the discussion of whether some land should remain Conservation land and others be correctly designated as Town Forest. Dan Stepanauskas recommends that Foss Mountain stay as Conservation Land and the remainder remain or become Town Forest. Marnie asked whether Town Forest designation allows money to be spent to manage land for flora and fauna as well as forest. Does it protect the land overall? ECC has more say on Town Forest - Town Selectmen can have more say on Conservation Lands. The ECC will continue to discuss this further but set a target of the next Town Meeting to raise the question.

ECC voted to submit Warrant Articles at the March 2024 Town Meeting designating specific parcels of Eaton Town Land as Town Forest and / or Conservation Lands.

9. COMMUNITY COHORT - no issues

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Will check with Billy Angel about mowing Thurston Road cellar hole on Bush Road.

Dick sent photos of damaged fish weir on Snow Brook to John Magee, fish biologist, NH Fish and Game. John made arrangements with DOT to assess damage and plan next steps.

Dick will talk to Abby of Waukeela Camp to discuss management of a clump of Japanese knotweed at the Crystal Lake shore across from the camp.

Paul covered graffiti at Long Pond - thank you!

Bob Craycraft will be training Paul on water testing methodology.

Next meeting: October 9, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, volunteer.

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 9, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Tom Head, Paul Nuccio, Robin Nuccio, and Heather McKendry. Also present were John Schmerfeld and Enna Carbone.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the September 9 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$24,738.76
Foss Mountain Fund	\$17,182.81
Forest Maintenance Fund	\$48,623.46
Land Conservation Fund	\$15,700.55
TOTAL	\$106,871.88

Donation box at trailhead	\$26.30
Website Donation Income	\$0

An invoice was submitted by William Heath for repairs of Wilis Bean Rd. In the amount of \$640.00 and will be paid from the Forest Management Fund.

The Land Acquisition account's name has been changed to the Land Conservation Fund.

The ECC voted to inquire into taking money from our accounts and invest in an eleven-month CD program at our bank. The Conservation account will have \$10,000 invested. The Forest Maintenance Fund will have \$30,000 invested. The Land Conservation Fund will have \$10,000 invested. Robin will look into.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** - A joint town meeting will be held at the Town Hall on Oct. 17 2023 at 6pm. During this meeting all of the town's boards are invited.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** - The Planning Board had a preliminary meeting with Tom Costello about a possible subdivision on Glines Hill and Young Road. The board completed its review of a draft amendment to the Wetlands Conservation Overlay Zone, which would add protections to a 100 ft buffer around wetlands, along with other minor changes. Discussion was held about the amendment, and further research was agreed necessary.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** - Trail work was done by Paul Nuccio and Dick Fortin on Foss. They added another water bar, moved the kiosk to face another direction, and did some general clean-up of downed trees and branches.

Thank you cards have been mailed to most of our donors. The last few will be sent out shortly, concluding our summer fundraising for the trail rebuild.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Paul Nuccio will finish checking boundaries in the next couple months. He will then compile a list of which lines will need repainting and which remain in good condition, and which may need surveying.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - Bear dog signs have been taken down all along Willis Bean Rd. Only one or two remain. New signs will be remade and reposted along the road.

9. COMMUNITY COHORT - no issues

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

The NHACC meeting is Nov. 4, 2023. Attendance is encourage for any who can attend.

Dick Fortin and Dagmar von Schwerin attended an invasive species workshop. They learned about Japanese Knotweed, Glossy Buckthorn and more. Dick Fortin placed a hardware cloth over some of the knotweed growing by Camp Waukeela, hoping to stop the spread of the weed.

Beavers have caused some problems at the Giles' place. The ECC discussed the possibility of putting in a beaver pipe to help with the damage. Beavers will be one of the workshop topics at the NHACC meeting. More information is hoped to be learned at the workshop.

Next meeting: November 13, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Robin Nuccio

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 13, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Heather McKendry, Robin Nuccio, and Paul Nuccio. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin, Dennis Sullivan, Enna Carbone and Kristie Foster Carbone.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the October 9 meeting were accepted.*

ECC voted on Board Members. Marnie Cobbs continues as Chair. Paul Nuccio will be the new Vice Chair. Robin Nuccio continues as Treasurer. The Secretary position remains unfilled, however the ECC accepts the taking of the Minutes by Dagmar von Schwerin, Volunteer, in the meantime. Heather McKendry will step down from the Board for a time. ECC will try to recruit another one or two members.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

\$50,000 was transferred into CD's to gain more interest earnings of approx. 4.97%

Conservation Fund	\$24,777.58 (- \$10,000 = \$14,777.58)
Forest Management Fund	\$48,059.39 (- \$30,000 = \$18,059.39)
Land Conservation Fund	\$15,725.19 (- \$10,000 = \$5,725.19)
Foss Mountain Fund	\$18,004.70
TOTAL	\$106,566.86
Donation box at trailhead	\$38.00
Eaton Village Store	\$27.75
Website Donation Income	\$0

Horizon Forestry bill for \$2,730.00 (\$195/acre) - submitted for payment from Foss Mtn Fund
Registration for Marnie for NHACC - \$60.00 – submitted for payment out of Conservation Fund
ECC voted in favor of payment of both

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – One of the conditions of the Dredge and Fill permit issued in 2003 to Waukeela Camp was to set up a silt fence to retain beach sand, however indefinite compliance was not mandatory. Since plows took out the silt fence again this year, it has not been reinstalled. When Waukeela next submits a beach replenishment request, the Selectmen will make a stipulation that the silt fence be reinstalled and suggest that Waukeela make more of an effort to delineate the silt fence with high stakes so the State plow does not damage it over the course of the winter. The more sand is washed into the lake, the more plants grow in the shallows, reducing beach size over time.

Highway crew dismantled a beaver dam on Potter Road near the second bridge. Statutes allow dams that encroach on a road or bridge to be dismantled as long as the equipment does not enter the water or wetlands.

5. PLANNING BOARD – The Board voted to postpone work on the new Wetlands Ordinance amendment to allow more time for review and feedback from ECC, the Select Board and the public tied in with Master Plan outreach. Small changes were made to the Zoning Ordinance based on discussion at the Joint Meeting of Land Use Boards in October. PB is researching ECC request to limit dock length to 30 feet. The PB did not approve expansion of the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance to include views from Conway Lake.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT – Horizon Forestry crew cut Foss Mountain in October. Foss Mountain trail water bars are functioning well. Holly and Marnie will reprint text in second kiosk that faded out.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT – “No Bear Dogs” signs were installed on Willis Bean Road and some water bars were fixed. Hard copies of Paul’s narratives for walking town lines with coordinates will be kept in files. Digital copies can also be stored on the ECC google docs page.

Kristie Foster Carbone presented a proposal to create a subcommittee focused on identifying and controlling invasive plant species. Kristie has started mapping Knotweed in particular in the EDD Maps Pro app. Information can be brought into the NRI and planning could help identify the sites that will be most advantageous to treat. Kristie has been talking with Stubby about how to reduce transmission of invasives with equipment, and it was suggested that she contact Dan Stepanauskas who has also been tracking invasives including Glossy Buckthorn. Dagmar volunteered to help with identification process, and others may be recruited at the planned Conservation Conversation presentation. Eaton is at the head of the watershed so any successes will help keep invasives from traveling downstream to other communities.

Paul discussed UNH’s Wetlands Certificate Program, which is the first step in a longer process to become a full Wetlands Delineator, requiring further study and apprenticeships. Classes do not start until Spring 2024. Cost for this first step would be approx. \$2,000. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a member of the ECC become knowledgeable about Wetlands issues. ECC will discuss the possibility of supporting some or all of the cost when the class schedule becomes clear.

Paul will begin testing Long Pond and Thurston Pond, coordinating with Enna and Mark Carbone to compile results from the sites they have been monitoring. ECC has not paid UNH for general testing of samples in the past, but if they do require payment now, ECC voted to approve payment of such costs. The Town pays for Coliform tests for Crystal Lake Beach.

Cliff Cabral has checked Crystal Lake.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT – 21 Acres off Ben Road in South Eaton have been taken for unpaid taxes by the Town of Eaton. ECC voted to recommend it be designated Town Forest as it is adjacent to and connecting other Town Forest land. The Selectmen will discuss this transfer. It will require a Warrant Article and a vote at Town Meeting.

Attorney Loughman will look at Deeds submitted by Dick F. and write a formal opinion on Deed vs Conservation Easement language taking precedence. Dick F. will write up a Warrant Article on Town Forest versus Conservation Easement clarifications for ECC review prior to submittal to the Selectmen. The Deeds should be included in the NRI for reference.

9. COMMUNITY COHORT – Dennis talked to Marc Jacobs, presenter at the NHACC conference, about conducting a Conservation Conversation on Wetlands in February.

Dennis discussed a potential Conservation Conversation on Invasive Species with Wendy Scribner. Doug Cygan, NHDA Invasive Species Coordinator, led a recent tour of invasive species for the USVLT and also offered to make presentations. Kristie Foster Carbone, who will be heading a new ECC subcommittee on Invasive plants could attend to encourage interest and participation from Eaton residents.

Dennis will restart work on Conservation Planning for Eaton. Marnie will bring the rough outline developed after the Community Cohort to the next meeting to discuss next steps.

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Marnie Cobbs, Dennis Sullivan and Dagmar von Schwerin attended the annual NHACC Conference last weekend and reviewed the sessions they attended.

Dennis: 1) "The Global Stake of Climate & Clean Energy". perspectives on the state of global climate negotiations, what to expect as world leaders gather in Dubai for COP, how actions are shifting to bottom-up planning, with more support for local efforts. 2) "Case Studies in Wetland Zoning" by Marc Jacobs (Dagmar also attended) – outlining the process with case studies for writing up Wetlands Ordinances. 3) "Use Your NRIs" – confirmed the importance of creating an NRI. Dennis will change color codes for soil maps to highlight hydric soils, making it easier to quickly identify potential problem areas.

Marnie: Brought NHACC's financial info for review as ECC does contribute annually to NHACC. Keynote Speech "Journey to the Swamp" by David Carroll – on his love of wetlands and turtles with inspirational "call to arms" for Conservation Commissions as the army to defend habitats. 1) "Living with Beavers" with NH Fish & Game and Beaver Deceivers – how to improve habitat while finding creative ways to control beaver activity. Towns need to provide more help and guidelines. Some trail development including Rail Trails could cause problems as they are exempt from State laws requiring a wetland permit and they go directly into sensitive beaver and turtle habitat - Hot topic along with uninformed beaver management. 2) "Health Impact of Climate Change" with two physicians representing the NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action – discussed the basics of climate science and how climate change impacts health, discussing particulate matter and how it affects the body. Lots of interesting stats. 3) "Community Scale Solar & Conservation" (also attended by Dagmar) presented by Revision, a company ranked second to Patagonia in terms of environmental awareness – presented case studies in community solar projects and how they are developed and maintained. There was some discussion with attendees about cost/benefit ratios related to the size and locations of some of the planned solar array developments.

Dagmar: "Protecting the Little Big Forest" – Geoff Jones, Stoddard Conservation Commission – how an inexperienced conservation commission was able to save key 41 acre waterfront site on Pioneer Lake from development. Inspirational and useful information about fundraising (Zeffy), engaging the community and the importance of grit. Suggestion to use Annual Report to inform public about successes and plans. Communication is key.

Next meeting: December 11, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, volunteer

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 11, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin and Holly Fortin. Also present was Dagmar von Schwerin.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the November 13 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$14,799.32 - CD \$10,040.85
Forest Management Fund	\$18,085.96 - CD \$30,122.55
Land Conservation Fund	\$ 5,733.61 - CD \$10,040.85
Foss Mountain Fund	\$18,157.67
TOTAL	\$106,980.81
Donation box at trailhead	\$0
Website Donation Income	\$0

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – Selectmen were divided about designating 21 acres off Ben Road seized for unpaid taxes as Town Forest, citing the amount of land already so designated and potential tax income from private ownership. Ongoing income from a Town Forest designation will not be high as the land has been heavily timbered, and blueberry income has been decreasing. Private ownership would require build-out and maintenance of the Class VI road by a new owner. Marnie volunteered to speak for ECC at the annual Town Meeting to present the pros and cons and offer to pay back taxes (if this is allowed by statute) so that the town does not lose that revenue.

Dick reminded ECC about the meeting reporting on Eaton's Capital Improvement Plan on January 2 at 6:30

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – The Board reviewed language for proposed minor zoning amendments to wireless telecom., steep slope protections, changes in the definition of structure as applied to patios and docks, home occupations, camping and recreational vehicles, acceptance of private of Class VI roads by the Town and clarification of the boundaries of the Village District. The Board also developed language to allow changes in height of non-conforming structures if certain conditions are satisfied.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – no issues

7. **TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – Logging income, careful management, donated volunteer time and past blueberry profits have helped to grow the original amount of the ECC's funds quite considerably, keeping the ECC financially self-sustaining. ECC is developing a 10-year budget to show how the money in each account is scheduled to be spent, covering anticipated costs without the need to come to the Town for additional funding.

Dick and Mamie will coordinate work on the ECC 10-year budget with input from Commission members. The cutting schedule with Horizon will be fine-tuned. Opportunities to fund burns, including grants or bird/pollinator surveys that trigger USFWS underwriting will be explored. Trail costs are estimated based on erosion from increased use and recurring extreme weather events. Additional upcoming costs include Forestry reviews, watershed management training, treatment of invasive plants in lakes and on land, boundary painting, surveying costs, possible easement costs, and bridge deck replacement, all balanced with reduced income as blueberry fields become less productive and town forests recuperate for the next 10-15 years. Marnie and Dagmar will work with Robin to find the best ways to track and report on income and expenses in specific categories in the new online Quicken software.

Mark Carbone and Paul Nuccio discussed water testing protocols and will coordinate to ensure that prior test frequency, formats and locations are followed so that all results, historic and new, will mesh. Paul will be testing two additional sites.

Cliff Cabral did not test Crystal Lake this year but will do so next year. Enna may be able to work with him as she is a certified diver.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT – Dick wrote up a Warrant Article, with concurrence from Attorney Laughlin, to formally designate all parcels of Town land as Town Forest with the exception of the blueberry fields around Foss which will be designated as Conservation Land. This will correct inconsistent language and upon approval, should be included in the NRI for reference.

9. COMMUNITY COHORT – Eaton Conservation Plan - Marnie presented three documents to be discussed at the next meeting including the Eaton Conservation Plan Outline, NHACC Handbook notes, and Master Plan Notes. Dennis Sullivan is addressing a bulk of the plan with his work on the NRI. Marnie read aloud from the appendices of the Master Plan - a summarized results of a survey of Town residents taken 2014(?). Work on the Conservation Plan will continue through 2024, providing an opportunity to clarify the purpose and goals of the Eaton Conservation Commission, prioritize conservation efforts and support the creation of the new Master Plan in 2025.

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Culverts - Saco River Alliance and Green Mountain Conservation Group met with the Selectmen regarding the deteriorating condition of culverts in Carroll County. This group seeks to obtain a grant from FEMA for a financial study of estimated costs to replace/repair 450 culverts. They require a Letter of Signature from the 13 towns involved. 50% have signed on to date - 2 towns with letters signed by Selectmen, others with letters signed by the town's Planning Board or Conservation Commission.

Eaton has 53 stream crossings, 11 of which had "no passage" scores for aquatic pass-through. Most are along State roads. The group discussed whether financial assistance for private owners to upgrade their culverts would be included in any FEMA payouts. Because ultimate responsibility for the costs (State vs private vs Town roads) is unclear, the Selectmen will not sign the Letter of Support. The group decided that the Planning Board should respond to the request for Letters of Support as this is not strictly in the ECC's domain.

On a related topic, Dick measured a narrow 18" clearance under one bridge on Potter Road, with water backing up due to beaver activity. The same is true at Waukeela Camp. Marnie will contact the group who spoke at the NHACC conference – Beaver Deceivers – about potential

consulting to address the beaver issues holistically. Dick will contact NH Fish and Game to discuss as well.

Foss Mountain Road winter access –Marnie raised concerns about the allowance given to the A-frame residents to use the Town's winter parking lot to stage their cars and snow track vehicle, and using Foss Mountain Road to access their off-the-grid house. The tracks and flattened berm may encourage inappropriate use from Foss Mt Rd. It has been the goal of the ECC to keep Foss Mountain accessible yet not so busy that that habitat becomes fractured. Dick explained that they asked for allowance, given that their usual access point off Ben Road was too boggy to traverse with the snow track until the ground freezes. This is meant to be a temporary solution to prevent Ben Road access from being further damaged. Landowners have to be able to access their land, and they are taxpayers so the winter lot was made temporarily usable by them with a special allowance. Concerns regarding damage to the Foss Mountain road and parking at the Winter Parking lot were reviewed by the Road Agent with no objections expressed.

Next meeting: January 8, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary