

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 10, 2025

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

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

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$19,340.38	CD \$10,616.82	
Forest Management Fund	\$17,603.98	CD \$31,850.45	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$13,324.60		
Conservation Fund	\$14,625.32	CD \$10,616.82	
TOTALS	\$64,894.28	CD \$53,084.09	\$117,978.37
Donation boxes	\$0.00		
Website Donation Income	\$0.00		

ECC voted to reimburse Heather McKendry \$12 for Foss website out of Foss Mountain fund

Robin drafted an application to be used to apply for grants from the Henney Fund for Tin Mountain educational summer camps. Dick will review with the Select Board and the bank.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – Selectmen have been working primarily on Eaton's budget. Also discussed was concern over plowing of Willis Bean Road from Maine, 2 miles in, which could invite vehicle use of the road and subsequent damage. The plowing is legally allowed so that owners can access their land, but it was determined to be a one-off instance and therefore will not be an issue going forward.

Eversource will not need to present a proposal for tree cutting along scenic Potter Road as the NH Municipal Association states in this instance that Eversource is working for the new landowner directly, not the Town of Eaton, and owners have a right to cut trees on their land.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – PB worked on "Quality of Life" chapter of the Master Plan based on feedback from the questionnaire. The rural character of Eaton was clearly the most cited characteristic of the town that appeals to townspeople. Areas that need improvement are cell phone service, affordable housing, traffic on Route 153, protection of natural resources (specifically water quality), and limits on noise and excessive lighting.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Eaton's contract with Ryan Bushell to pick blueberries on Foss was cancelled. Eaton is negotiating a contract with Emily Lucy starting this year. Emily will pursue organic certification options and attend a blueberry grower's conference in Belfast, ME, which Dick will attend via Zoom. Olivia Saunders of the UNH Coop. Ext. Food & Agriculture Program is encouraging soil testing and mulching and will volunteer time to work with ECC and Emily. ECC

will organize two full days in summer to fill holes in Brooks Pasture in order to gain access for a sulphur spreader and make brush cutting and picking easier. Marnie will talk to Cheese Louise to see if they might want to send volunteers.

Chris O'Brien, Prescribed Fire Coordinator for the Forest Protection Bureau, recommended an insurance company but has no direct experience with them. ECC will contact Wendy Scribner, UNH Forester and the Nature Conservancy to find out which insurance companies they use.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT – ECC received a letter from USVLT stating that the annual monitoring of their easements was complete and met all requirements.

DES and GMCG are heavily promoting best practices for road salting. The Select Board are encouraging Eaton's road crew to get certified in salt calibration and best practices by taking classes that are part of the Municipal Green SnowPro program. This will likely save the town a good deal of money and also help protect Eaton's water bodies. Dick is also keeping in touch with Nancy Spaulding of NH DOT and will provide our most recent water quality and traffic data to her so she can take next steps.

ECC will talk to Waukeela camp about their beachfront – erosion from parking and plant growth in the shallows created by sand run off continues to be of concern vis a vis flooding of the road.

Paul, Dagmar and Dennis Sullivan will edit the current ECC Conservation Plan and present to the ECC at the next meeting for discussion.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT – no issues

9. WATER MANAGEMENT – Select Board is meeting with Bob Craycraft, UNH Lake Monitoring Program Manager/Coord. regarding the water quality of Thurston Pond on Tuesday Feb 18 2:30 pm. ECC should become members of the NH Lakes Association as they can provide guidance on remediation and outreach.

10. OTHER BUSINESS – Steve is working privately with an environmental lawyer researching easements and access issues at Conway Lake's South Cove. Steve will present a memo summarizing findings to the ECC.

Paul reported on the GMCG zoom meeting with other local Conservation Commissions. NHACC's Barbara Richter outlined info resources available on their website and through their organization, as well as the NH Lakes Association. The Lake Smart Program and grants for discounting costs of septic pumping for tanks near water may be of interest.

Sandwich Conservation Commission invited ECC to attend Tues Feb 25 meeting at 7:00 pm

Water quality outreach might be a good Conservation Conversation topic in future.

Cliff Cabral is planning to dive in Crystal Lake on a Friday in July to look for invasive species.

Next meeting: March 10, 2025 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary