

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 14, 2025

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

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

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$21,635.77	CD \$10,692.47	
Forest Management Fund	\$17,642.14	CD \$32,077.39	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$13,370.51		
Conservation Fund	\$14,406.66	CD \$10,692.47	
TOTALS	\$67,055.08	CD \$53,462.33	\$120,517.41
Donation boxes	\$0.00		
Website Donation Income	\$0.00		

Website ownership was transferred to the Town of Eaton

Discussed use of Henney Fund for Tin Mountain scholarships. As ECC is officially the manager of the fund, members will need to certify annually that they understand the IRC Rules Governing Private Foundations. Robin and Dagmar will contact Judy to take over the formal scholarship process and form approved by the bank. ECC will review list of applicants.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – NH Municipal Assoc. is submitting Bill# 124 which would enable town forest management funds to be transferred into general town funds – this could have a direct impact on the security of Eaton's Forest Management Fund. NHACC noted that some towns pay yield tax on Timber cuts which Eaton has not done. Dick is creating a manual reviewing each of the funds and how money has been and can be spent.

A zoom Workshop for 91A will be held May 6th from 9:00-2:30 providing info about how committees should handle meetings emails and public records.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – Public hearing on Cluster Development of Lot 40 of Map R03 addressed questions about acreage calculations, steep slopes, shared driveways, location of sites in Residential District versus Village District, possible wetlands on the property, and whether open space would be preserved for recreation or left undisturbed. The hearing will be continued at the April 16 meeting.

Preliminary review of six lot subdivision of Lot 24 on Map R04 on Youngs Road. Surveyor is ground truthing national survey to confirm data and check for wetlands. Public hearing will be held at May's PB meeting.

Continued work on updated Master Plan including reviews of Freedom, Brownfield and Jackson MPs. Kevin Conklin shared draft of revised Recreation chapter incorporating feedback from ECC and MP questionnaire.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT – Marnie and Dick will contact Emily Lucy to discuss possibility of a three-year versus annual contract. Any potential role of the picker in field management will be discussed and contracted separately. Price per pint paid to Town may be lower in the first year and increase yearly to allow Emily to develop markets. ECC will continue to manage the fields, deciding where to focus work. Olivia Saunders Carroll County Extension wants to help. Blueberries have generated approximately \$65,708 in income since 1975. ECC will work on long term management plan for Foss Mountain this year.

Chris O'Brien of Division of Forests & Lands "NH Fire Council" says they cannot burn blueberry fields as they generate income for the Town and are therefore ineligible. They could burn the ridge. Insurance issue remains. Bill Edwards of Star Tree used Conservation United out of Phoenix. Burning in general may be less desirable with increasingly dry summers as the organics that are burned also help retain moisture. Fields need sulphur application though.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT – Maria Gross and Don Yerewicz of the CLCA will attend May ECC meeting to discuss methods used by the CLCA to monitor Conway Lake.

Andrea LeMoreaux and Brea Arvidson of NH Lakes have also volunteered to attend an ECC meeting to discuss their programs. The next Lakes Congress meeting will be held June 5 2025 in Concord – Maria Gross of CLCA will attend, Steve and Paul may also be able to attend.

Steve K met with Dennis Sullivan of the PB to talk about Conway Lake's updated 2024 shoreline ordinance in order to ensure that Eaton's new Wetlands Ordinance would harmonize with Conway Lake's regulations (about one third of Conway Lake is within Eaton town lines). The ordinances need conformity on swim floats, docks, buffers, etc. PB is reviewing draft agreement to the Wetland's Ordinance aiming for inclusion on the Town Warrant in 2026. PB would like feedback from the ECC by mid-June 2025.

Discussed possibility of DOT inspecting drainage into Thurston Pond from Rte 153 as an area of concern. Nancy Spaulding is the DOT contact. It is important to contact them often as concerns arise in order to emphasize need to protect water quality of all ponds and aquifer.

Discussed Vernal Pool study to locate, record coordinates and size, and add to NRI. The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) does not show all wetlands, particularly vernal pools.

Discussed action items for ECC Conservation Plan, with lists prioritizing 5 items to focus on this year and 10 longer term items. There were many overlaps between ECC member lists. Water quality continues to be a prime focus, as well as long term management of Foss and its blueberry fields. ECC members will send their lists to Paul to consolidate for discussion at the next meeting.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT – Dick will call Dan Stepanauskas to see if he can project TSI for a small cut by the White place.

9. OTHER BUSINESS – More rocks need to be placed on Potter Road near the bridge to block new rogue boat launching areas. ECC will contact Mayo and Herrera to see if they would be willing to post no trespassing signs at these areas as well.

Next meeting: May 12, 2025 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary