

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 12, 2025

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Members present were Paul Nuccio, Robin Nuccio, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, and Tom Head.

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

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund \$21,659.60
Forest Management Fund \$17,661.57
Foss Fund \$13,385.24
Conservation Fund \$14,422.53
CD: \$32,193.40
CD: \$10,731.14
CD: \$10,731.14
Total: \$120,804.62

4. **SELECTMENS REPORT** - A meeting is tentatively scheduled for next Tuesday with Nancy Spaulding of DOT to discuss several issues including Thurston Pond runoff, the culvert, and the low salt review that may happen. The 91A seminar was held last week and was recorded for anyone unable to attend. The seminar reviewed information that directly affects the ECC such as how business and emails can be conducted.

Another application was submitted by photographer Carolanne Moralez, a previous applicant who does photo shoots on Foss. Her applications are appreciated by the selectboard, and each time, have been within appropriate guidelines. Photographers are encouraged to donate to Foss if willing.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** - The Planning Board has had two meetings during the past month. At our regularly scheduled meeting on April 16, we had two preliminary reviews and one subdivision hearing. The first preliminary review was regarding a boundary line adjustment on Heath property on the north side of Stewart Road near its junction with Bull Pasture Road. The adjustment would provide road frontage for a lot that is currently locked. No major problems came up. We expect a formal proposal may be forthcoming in the months ahead.

The second preliminary review was regarding a potential subdivision of some of the McBrien property east of the end of Stewart Road. There were several issues that need to be addressed before a subdivision proposal can be submitted. There was a discrepancy about where the current boundary lines are that needs to be clarified, as well as issues regarding frontage on a town-maintained road.

The applicants for a cluster development on the south side of the Brownfield Road across from Town Hall withdrew their application and instead submitted an application for a four-lot subdivision. After some discussion and public comment, the board approved the application with four minor conditions. Since then, the conditions have been met, and the final plan was signed on May 6. The same applicant will be returning to the Planning Board at our May meeting for approval of a driveway and building site in an area containing steep slopes.

The Board conducted its annual election of officers. Dennis Sullivan will continue as chair and Kevin Conklin will continue as vice chair. Following this the Board had a brief discussion of our short-term rental regulations and agreed to hold a work session on that topic.

We also discussed the need for a work session on our public hearing procedure, minimum lot sizes based on soil type, and the finding of fact worksheets we use for subdivision approval and steep slope applications. That work session took place on May 8 with much helpful discussion and several suggestions for small improvements. A similar work session on site plan review was scheduled for June 11th in anticipation of a site plan review hearing regarding a new cell tower that could take place at our regular meeting on June 18th.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT - Dick Fortin drew up a contract for Emily to sign. The Board looked over the contract and made a few adjustments and will give it to Emily to look over. Dick and Holly have been researching biodynamics as a possible new means to maintain the blueberry fields. Will such a method increase growth and enrich soil? The group decided it was worth pursuing. Dick went to Brooks Pasture to measure all the holes that need to be filled. He determined we will need 33 cubic yards of sand. Stubby quoted about \$700 - \$800 for fill plus labor. Olivia suggested using sandy fill which may be a little cheaper, and to top-dress with 2-4 inches of softwood as well as soil testing. Stubby is willing to haul up the materials when we need them with the one-ton. An exact date will be determined but July is where we are aiming.

Dick Fortin has been using his own blades to cut Foss and the group voted to reimburse him \$65.98 for new blades to be taken from the Foss Mountain Fund. Dick did some brush cutting over the past week in the upper corridors. Paul suggested choosing which fields should be prioritized.

7. TOWN LANDS - The Planning Board would like the ECC to comment on the proposed wetlands ordinance. Lianne will send a copy to the group, and we will discuss at the next meeting. Paul suggested building a kiosk to put at Crystal Lake with information on how to recreate with the health of the water in mind. Hopefully by fall we can build it with the help of volunteers.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - The ECC will consider if any Timber Stand Improvement should be done in 2025 or if painting town land boundaries should be the priority as our income from forestry and blueberries is not much at this time. Bettering the forest is important and Dan does have some TSIs in mind now. Paul will go through his notes to see what lines and areas need the most work.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Paul joined the Rivers Group by the Green Mountain Conservation Group.

Dick printed out a detailed expense report of past years as well as years to come. We are projected to spend about \$9,500 in 2025 and our income is projected to be about \$3,600. We need to find creative ways to generate more income. More detailed records will be started from this point and continue forward to assist us in better financial practices. There may be some grants we can apply for in the future to supplement our income to expense differential.

The cutoff has been placed for Tin Mountain scholarships this year. Five kids applied. The Board reviewed each of their applications and determined that each applicant will receive \$100.00. We will use the money we receive from the Henney Fund to sponsor kids' education.

Meeting Was adjourned at 7:40pm

Next Meeting on June 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Robin Nuccio