

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 9, 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 May 12 meeting were accepted.

## 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$21,683.46	CD \$10,769.95	
Forest Management Fund	\$17,681.02	CD \$32,309.83	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$13,343.39		
Conservation Fund	\$14,438.41	CD \$10,769.95	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$67,111.28</b>	<b>CD \$53,849.73</b>	<b>\$120,961.01</b>
Donation boxes	\$0.00		
Website Donation Income	\$9.41		

CDs up July 1 – ECC will renew at current short term rate

Henney Fund – 5 applicants for summer camp money will each receive \$100

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – Dick presented a report on activities of the Selectmen including an application for a widening of Potter Road at the location of last year's accident, the new blueberry field contract for Emily Lucy, enforcement of the short term rental ordinance, and migration of the Town of Eaton's website and email to a .gov address. All Board Chairs will need to correspond through the .gov address going forward. Marnie asked that Paul and Dick talk to Lianne about transfer or retention of existing ECC gmail account and its google docs.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – Planning Board activities included a discussion of the Selectmen's proposal to widen Potter Road, the proposed subdivision and boundary line adjustment on Youngs Road, the proposal to subdivide the rest of lot Lot 24 into 6 lots and a steep slope driveway and building site proposal on Lot 40 of map R03.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Dick and Paul will meet with Emily Lucy and Olivia Saunders on Thursday June 12 at 2:00 pm to discuss the contract approved by the Selectmen.

Parts of Brooks Pasture seem to be affected by Span Worm as it is not greening up. Olivia will take some soil samples and advise ECC about potential state resources to deal with this. Dick spoke to the Josefine Porter Institute and they sent good information about biodynamic farming techniques specifically for managing low bush blueberries. Dick and Holly will pursue further.

Paul refreshed water bars on the trail to Foss. Stubby delivered wood chips to the old Foss parking lot. ECC has scheduled July 21 and alternate day July 22 for a work day of filling holes in the field with sand and wood chips.

7. **TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – The Planning Board has asked for ECC's comments on the proposed Wetlands Ordinance. The group agreed with the wording of most of the Ordinance. Paul was concerned about the language defining the size of a wetland that would trigger requirements for setbacks and/or buffers. Based on his reading of several other towns'

ordinances, he felt that 40,000 SF (one acre) was too large, and that most wetlands in Eaton would therefore have no protection.

Steve raised the possibility of addressing Shoreline Water Quality Protection either via inclusion of language in this Wetlands Ordinance, or via a the creation of a new Shoreline Protection Overlay Zone. (Such a Zone is identified as a priority in the 2015 Master Plan but has not been moved forward to date.) Eaton's shoreline protection for all "Great Ponds" (including Conway and Crystal Lakes, as well as Long, Hatch, and Roberts Ponds) is currently governed only by state-level regulations. A primary impetus to address shoreline protection specific to Eaton is the opportunity to harmonize guidelines that were championed by the Conway Lake Conservation Association (CLCA) and enacted in Conway in 2024. Approximately one-third of Conway Lake lies within Eaton. Initial feedback is that expanding the scope of the Wetlands Ordinance to encompass Shoreline could be too cumbersome and potentially confusing. However, the process for preparing a separate ordinance creating a new Overlay Zone and associated Ordinance would mean that it would be unlikely to come to Town Meeting before 2027. The ECC asked whether we could propose a simple addendum for the Wetland Ordinance that references the NH State Shoreline Protection guidelines (as our current guidelines do), adding just a few points related specifically to Eaton shorelines, perhaps that could be added to the Wetlands Ordinance for consideration by in 2026. Steve will talk to the CLCA and see if they can provide some help. They have done a lot of work in this area already, from which the Town of Eaton can benefit.

Discussion about potential information kiosk at Crystal Lake to educate residents about water quality – Maria Gross at CLCA has worked on signage for Conway Lake and could help with concise messaging. Eaton's Facebook page could also be helpful in conveying info. Preferred option would be to hold events at Eaton's lakes, beginning either with Thurston Pond or Long Lake to promote NH's Lake Smart program. NH Lakes and GMCG could attend – Henney Education Fund money could underwrite costs.

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT** – Beech trees will be gone in two years due to blight. Dan Stepanauskas will cut some now and take the opportunity to put down red and white oak acorns and black birch seeds in order to give them time to germinate while beech and ash die out. Dick and Paul will review which boundary lines need repainting as well, but replanting takes priority.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS** – Steve heard that the Town of Porter, ME voted to uphold restrictions for development of a gravel pit in Porter, which had been halted with a temporary moratorium.

Steve updated ECC on his research into boat access on the south end of Conway Lake, distributing a one-page document meant to be used to start conversations with stakeholders. ECC will discuss further at the next meeting.

Crystal Lake tested negative for ecoli.

Next meeting: July 14, 2025 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary