

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 14, 2025

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

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

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$21,708.14	CD \$10,810.20	
Forest Management Fund	\$17,701.14	CD \$32,430.57	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$13,363.13		
Conservation Fund	\$14,454.84	CD \$10,810.20	
TOTALS	\$67,227.25	CD \$54,050.97	\$121,278.22
Donation boxes	\$99.94		
Website Donation Income	\$00.00		

CDs have been renewed. Maturity date Dec 2, 2025, interest rate + 3.93%
Dick will bring income / expense spreadsheet to discuss quarterly going forward.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – Joint board meeting will be held on either September 22 or 23.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – Issues discussed included scheduling of public hearing regarding cutting of trees along Potter Road, short term rental allowance request at 46 Lary Road, steep slope issues related to a new driveway on Jeff Perry property off Brownfield Road, and the six-lot subdivision application on Youngs Road.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Dick, Emily Lucy and members of her team met at Foss to plan picking for the 2025 season. Emily has some interested buyers but will take this year to gauge yield and figure out logistics, aiming to cover at least start-up expenses. Berries are ready to pick, with equipment scheduled to be in place by Thursday and picking starting soon thereafter. Emily will contact UNH and Mary Thomas for additional info about growing and harvesting processes. Dick will put up signs demarcating public picking areas versus Emily / Town fields.

Paul contacted Horizon – Eaton is scheduled for fall cutting. The filling of holes in the fields has been postponed until 2026 to prevent damage to plants at a crucial time for the next harvest.

7. **TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – The ECC discussed Paul's research on wetlands protection enacted by other towns and talked through possible approaches for development of an ordinance for Eaton, considering documentation and clear guidelines for the Zoning and Planning Boards for review and enforcement. Paul will make a presentation to the Planning Board relaying ECC input to the proposed Wetland overlay district at their August work session.

Jill of the GMCG offered to test Thurston Pond with their Dissolved Oxygen probe.

The sign at the Crystal Lake turn off near the Church was ripped off and needs to be replaced.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT – ECC should plan to do boundary line painting in the fall. Dan will look for potential beech stands for sales and continue with planting other species in Eaton including white oak seedlings, birch and acorns as planted on Tin Mountain. Costs will be covered under silvicultural practices from the Henney Fund.

9. OTHER BUSINESS – Steve reported on research to date regarding the water access point at the southernmost end of Conway Lake. This access point crosses private land and over time there has been a marked increase in use and parking along the roadway, including at times commercial vans pulling large trailers. This increased use impacts access for emergency vehicles, increases erosion along the bank of Conway Lake, has encouraged trespassing across other parts of private land nearby, and also heightens the risk of the introduction of invasive species.

Since the access point has been used to launch small individual paddle craft for a long time (more than twenty years), it has become a public Right of Way (ROW) by prescriptive easement and is listed on NHF&G maps as an access point for cartop use. While the ROW is here to stay, some of the damage and overuse, including the creation of new access points beyond the official ROW, can be mitigated to some degree.

The 1880s Jewell maps of Eaton's roads show how widths and rights of way for roads in Eaton were established historically. Potter Road is also designated a scenic road. These parameters may help define which parts of the road the Town is authorized to manage in terms of parking and boulder placement. Landowners also have rights, particularly in the limitations of use for the current ROW, as well as prevention of further prescriptive easements by Posting their private property and enhancing physical barriers to access.

The research resulted in a number of specific recommendations that will be discussed further with property owners and at future ECC meetings.

Next meeting: August 14, 2025 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary