

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 10, 2024

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Paul Nuccio, Dick Fortin, Robin Nuccio, Holly Fortin and Tom Head. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin and Steve Kafka of Conway Lake Conservation Association.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the May 23 meeting were accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$ 9,435.57		
Forest Management Fund	\$18,248.88	CD \$30,880.98	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$16,362.38	CD \$10,293.66	
Conservation Fund	\$15,091.28	CD \$10,293.66	
TOTALS	\$59,138.11	CD \$51,468.30	\$110,606.41
Donation box at trailhead	\$40.00		
Website Donation Income	\$0		

ECC voted to approve payment of \$980 to Tin Mountain for summer camp scholarships, to be paid out of the Henney Fund.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – Selectmen prepared a sample cell tower installation contract and sent it to Eaton's insurance company and attorney for feedback, resulting in edits that add Town expectations for current and future operation of any new cell tower. Blue Sky - currently installing a cell tower in Freedom - has also changed their contract language. If this negotiation does not proceed, any cell tower development would have to happen on private property as Towle Hill is the only viable town-owned property in Eaton.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – A joint meeting of the Select Board, Planning Board and ECC to discuss the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) as pertains to the questionnaire and input to the Town Master Plan will be held on July 22nd at 6:00.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Volunteers repaired the trail to Foss Mountain, adding several water bars. Dick will put up no picking signs and strings around Brooks Pasture blueberry field in the next two weeks. Dick and Marnie will walk the fields with Ryan Bushnell in late June and sign a lease for this year.

Dick talked to NRCS about their grant program for mulching the blueberry fields. Since Ted at the USFWS has expressed interest in doing another burn at Foss, it was decided that a burn in Spring 2025 could be followed by an experimental mulching of 1 acre or so to see if it increases yield. If it makes a significant difference, it may be worthwhile to complete filling holes in the fields to allow access for a manure spreader to cover larger areas in future. The grant application is due this winter for spring mulching.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT – May 23rd's Conservation Conversation on Invasive Species, led by Wendy Scribner, UNH Cooperative Extension Forester, was helpful in identifying invasive plant species and methods for treating and disposing of plant materials. Wendy led a group of 12 or so around Town Hall and along Everett White Road providing info and tips for individual or potential community projects (eg a tool lending library) at reasonable and actionable levels.

ECC reviewed drafts of revisions of three chapters in Eaton's 2015 Master Plan – Recreation, Land Use and Natural Resources. Edits were discussed for all sections including ideas from Steve Kafka who has experience working on various programs with CLCA. Revised text will be reviewed at the next ECC meeting.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT – no issues

9. WATER MANAGEMENT – ECC discussed locations for signs regarding waterborne invasive species. Crystal Lake and the Potter Road access to Conway Lake have signage. Long Pond needs a sign replacement. Thurston Pond will not need one as the launch is hidden and very minimal. Paul will walk to Hatch Pond to see if it needs a sign. Paul will also ask Johnny Edge whether we could put a sign on his property at the Route 153 parking area near the Little White Church.

Green Mountain Conservation Group has offered help with water testing procedures and instruments.

Cliff Cabral will be testing Crystal Lake for invasive species on July 26.

Paul attended a UNH course on hydric soils. It was geared more towards professionals seeking further certification, however Paul was able to work with the professor in the field to get oriented. Paul will be taking a second course in October and will contact Dan Coons of ILEX – the presenter at ECC's Conservation Conversation on wetlands – to find out more about the process and best path for certification in Wetlands Assessment.

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Letters have been sent to Eaton's summer camps.

Next meeting: July 8, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary