

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 12, 2024

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

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the July 8 meeting were accepted.

After review by Selectmen, all ECC members voted in favor of electing Steve Kafka to the ECC.

Motions were made to vote in Paul Nuccio as Chair, Tom Head as Vice Chair, Robin Nuccio as Treasurer, and Dagmar von Schwerin as Recording Secretary. All voted in favor. Marnie Cobbs will remain a member of the ECC.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$ 9,463.82		
Forest Management Fund	\$18,303.51	CD \$31,138.01	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$15,846.99	CD \$10,379.34	
Conservation Fund	\$14,155.40	CD \$10,379.34	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$57,769.72</b>	<b>CD \$51,896.69</b>	<b>\$109,666.41</b>
Donation boxes	\$201.00 (Foss)	\$53.40 (EVS)	
Website Donation Income	\$242.95 (\$250 donation) & \$96.80 (\$100 donation)		

ECC will receive two checks of \$2,500 each for Land Use Change taxes paid  
ECC voted to authorize Treasurer to pay Cliff Cabral \$706.25 for survey of Crystal Lake.  
ECC voted to approve \$30 ECC membership in NHANRS (Assoc. Natural Resource Scientists)  
ECC voted to renew CDs on September 1 - 5% for 10-month CDs

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – reviewing a request by a landowner who is asking to place boulders on both ends of a discontinued road to reduce off-road traffic damage.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – no report submitted

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Dick worked with Ryan Bushnell on the fields for several days and learned useful information about the process.

US Forest Service is proposing to do a training burn at Foss if we can do the prep work. US Fish and Wildlife questioned if ECC might be interested in a Spring 2025 burn for pollinators. We responded yes to both queries. Horizon Forestry said they could come in July 2025 to cut on the ridge (better to cut saplings in spring / summer when the trees' energy is not stored in the roots) and then back in November 2025 to cut in the blueberry fields. They will come this November 2024 to cut. Marnie, Paul and Dick will coordinate with potential burn dates.

**7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – Commission members were asked to review the most recent drafts of the Master Plan sections and send edits to Marnie by Monday August 19.

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT** – Dan Stepanauskas presented a report on Forest Management issues in Eaton:

ECC discussed potential uses of Land Conservation Funds.

Dan presented information on impending threats to Beech, Red Pine and Hemlock stock (among others) from invasive species and climate change. He described selective cutting, some proactive to get the most income possible from doomed trees, and some to encourage trees like White Pine and Black Birch that can survive the changes.

Dan will consider Timber Stand Improvements (TSI) in upper section of Area 3 to keep spruce and hemlock growing straight - also part of Area 4 and adjacent lower Area 3 by Whale Back and present a prioritized proposal.

A priority will be to re-paint and clarify property lines, preferably with landowners participating and providing deeds that will help verify lines. Paul has walked all property lines for NRI updates and will work with Dan to locate markers and paint.

The status of Willis Bean Road maintenance for forest management was discussed. Dick cleaned the water bars and recommends another bar and ditch by the most recent washout.

Forest Management budget will primarily focus on TSIs and boundary line work as 2018 Forest Management Plan will not need updating yet. Unclear or unmarked boundaries may require hiring of surveyors, which would then involve a larger expense.

**9. WATER MANAGEMENT** – Cliff Cabral conducted a 5-hour dive at Crystal Lake and found no invasive species.

Dick spoke to NH DOT about using low salt along 153 by the lakes. Low salt requirement only applies if bodies of water are considered drinking water. State plows use calibrated salt unit amounts, but sub-contractors may not currently be required to do so. Nancy Spaulding of NH DOT will investigate and would be willing to implement calibration requirements for subcontractors.

Great Glen responded to ECC's letter requesting that they not launch multiple boats from the Potter Road end of Conway Lake. ECC will continue with a response in collaboration with CLCA to try and facilitate their work with local students. Potter Road is grandfathered for private car top carrier use only and cannot handle multiple boats. ECC members were asked to review the letter that will be sent to all commercial groups and get comments back to Marnie within the week. We will maintain dialogue with all groups to explain our position on the dangers posed to the lake by commercial use.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS** – Paul attended an NHANRS (Assoc. of Natural Resource Scientists) conference and found it very informative and useful as members volunteer to answer questions and problem solve issues that come up. ECC voted to approve \$30 ECC membership cost per year to join. Discussed possibility of formally joining NH Lakes Commission as well.

ECC reached out to landowner about plans to remove wood debris from Snowbrook. It was made clear to the landowner's caretakers that a permit would be required.

Steve will attend the August 21 hearing on the proposed gravel / refuse pit planned at the far end of Willis Bean Road in Maine.

NHACC provides funding for an intern. Application due October 11. ECC will work with CLCA to write up possible projects and discuss potential mentors for the program.

Next meeting: September 9, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary