

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 11, 2024

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

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

### 3. TREASURER’S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$19,273.67	CD \$10,499.93	
Forest Management Fund	\$18,378.43	CD \$31,499.81	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$17,404.31		
Conservation Fund	\$13,033.41	CD \$10,499.93	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$68,089.82</b>	<b>CD \$52,499.67</b>	<b>\$120,589.49</b>
Donation boxes	\$188.05		
Website Donation Income	\$20.00		

Dick, Steve and Robin will work on updating the budget for ECC  
\$4,447.95 – Horizon bill – ECC voted to pay bill out of Foss Mountain Fund.

*Treasurer’s report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN’S REPORT** – No major issues. Madison is putting up a cell tower behind King Pine so there will probably be no more interest in a tower in Eaton at Towle Hill.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** –Discussed small changes to zoning ordinances. Clarified ordinance language regarding storage versus usage of recreational vehicles at request of Select Board. Reviewed changes to state laws to see whether ordinances needed to be modified as a result.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – added new water bar and cleaned existing water bars on Foss trail. Cleaned and repaired water bars on Willis Bean Rd.

Waiting to meet with Chris O’Brien, Prescribed Fire Coordinator for the Forest Protection Bureau, to discuss schedule for three training burns in fall of 2025 and again in 2026 and 2027. Brooks Pasture would be ideal in the spring rather than Fall

Used Town Tattler as an opportunity to recruit another commercial picker for blueberries, stating we now had a winnower.

Dick will summarize cutting done on Foss by Horizon in Google document that tracks work.

Emily Lucy is back from Alaska and now growing lavender. She may be interested in picking berries for the Town. Ryan Bushnell called to check on cutting and availability of blueberries. Dick will call him back.

**7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – Development of the ECC Conservation Plan will be the ECC's project for winter months. Dennis & Marnie are providing previous work and resources.

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT** – Dan Stepanauskas and Paul walked town lines around Whales Back but could not trace one side of Town / Heath boundary. Stands of trees that Dan has been monitoring are doing well but buckthorn is taking hold. ECC will ask Dan to identify / blaze new lines - prioritizing working with the McBriens' on their property - and have ECC volunteers follow with paint and repaint existing blazes identified on Dennis' list to save money. Henney property paint is in good shape. Coordinates were collected along with a narrative written for the NRI.

**9. WATER MANAGEMENT** – Selectmen agreed to contact DOT requesting low salt use on 153 near bodies of water. Response will depend on traffic numbers - above a certain number of vehicles the State will not consider low salt. If traffic count is too high, ECC will see if we can convince the Town and subcontractors to get green certification. All state plows are calibrated.

ECC finished water monitoring program for the season. Awaiting results.

#### **10. OTHER BUSINESS –**

Steve is continuing to investigate prior work done around the Prescriptive Easement of the South end of Conway Lake. Some of this has been undertaken by the CLCA.

GMCG sent an invitation to attend a gathering of other local CC's on Friday Nov 15 at noon at the Blue Heron House in Effingham. Paul and Dagmar will attend.

Dagmar attended three sessions at the NHACC annual meeting on November 2:

*Land Conservation Options* – Forest Society – NH Land Trust Coalition makes outright purchases and monitors easements. They also refer interested owners to other organizations and grant programs including Moose Plate and LCHIP grants.

*Habitat Restoration and Management* – NH Fish & Game – recommend completing Wildlife Action Plan survey due Sept 2025. Talked about strategies - field mowing schedules, feathered edges, turtle habitat & vernal pool guidelines, and resources including Community Science (Bio Blitz, Nature Groupies) guidance on trail impacts and Invasive Species Council

*Eastern Coyote in NH* – Coyote Project – Trying to get protections for coyotes at least during denning season (currently coyotes can be killed year-round). No matter how many are killed, they return in same numbers, stabilizing at a supportable population. We must learn to live with them. Note: Eastern Wolves are often identified as Coyotes and killed.

Next NHANRS Workshop is on Dec 6 8:00-4:00 - Winter Botany. NH Audubon Concord NH

Bear dog trucks seen on Foss Mtn Road – said they were training but bear limit had been reached in Ossipee so were targeting Eaton. Another truck was hunting coyote.

Next meeting: December 9, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary