

## EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 8, 2024

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

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the December 11 meeting were accepted.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$15,780.46	CD \$10,080.50
Foss Mountain Fund	\$16,280.22	
Forest Management Fund	\$18,111.68	CD \$30,241.50
Land Conservation Fund	\$ 5,741.76	CD \$10,080.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,914.12</b>	<b>CD \$50,402.50</b>
Donation box at trailhead	\$0	
Website Donation Income	(\$70 Dec Jan)	

ECC voted to accept 2 checks from the Town's Land Use Conversion Tax account in the amount of \$3,624 for deposit in the Land Conservation Fund.

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – The Selectmen are in negotiations with a local landowner regarding unpaid timber yield taxes.

The Capital Improvement presentation was discussed. Selectmen will inform the Town of their choice of action and how projects will be paid for, including tax rate increases, at a Bond Public Hearing on January 16 at 6:30 pm.

The 21 acres seized for non-payment of taxes will be held by the Town for now as the larger scale Capital Improvement issues need to be managed in the next couple of years.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – The Board wrote a letter of support for Green Mountain Conservation group's proposal to FEMA on culvert upgrade assessment. The Board reviewed and approved 11 amendments to the Zoning Ordinance with a public hearing scheduled for January 17th at 6:15 pm. The Board discussed next steps for completion of a new Town Master Plan in 2025. To that end, a questionnaire will be developed in the spring by the Board and the ECC to be sent to town residents and property owners during the summer and reviewed in the fall.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – There have been some areas of erosion damage on the trail, but Dick has heard that many trails are now washing out below the tree line and this is not unusual. Repairs should not be major, water bars can be moved or added, and in the meantime, the trail is quite passable.

The future of Foss was discussed related to sustainability of maintaining its "unnatural" state of openness going into the future. Without cutting, Foss would be forested in a number of years.

Shall we ask in the questionnaire being developed for the Master Plan how the Town feels about Foss, and whether it is willing to commit some funds to its maintenance? Should we reach out for sustaining donations, so we don't fundraise every year? The volunteer workforce and contracted cutting options may not be available in future. Blueberry income may continue to diminish or disappear, so more funds would be needed to keep Foss open. Foss does represent a rare open grassland which hosts many species not found in forests, especially pollinators and birds. Foss and its blueberry fields are also a key feature in Eaton, enjoyed by many - it would be good to know how many users are local versus out-of-towners.

Some options related to the future of the blueberry fields were discussed including pay to pick and honor system picking if additional commercial pickers cannot be found, but concerns exist about overuse.

**7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – a Warrant Article will be submitted for a vote at the next Town Meeting to formally designate parcels Tax Map R-12 Lot 10 and Tax Map R-13 Lots 1,3,5,11 as Town Forest, with parcels Tax Map R-8 Lots 6,7,8,9,10 remaining as Conservation Land.

\$500 is being set aside each year for the next three years for wetlands management training for Paul from the Henney fund. The amount given to local children attending Tin Mountain's summer camps will be reduced by \$500 for the next three years, unless we find donors willing to support this continuing education to benefit the town.

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT** – no issues

**9. COMMUNITY COHORT - ECC Conservation Master Plan comments**

Work on mitigation of invasive species might best be focused on water borne species like milfoil which is easily spread but can also be contained if caught early. Buckthorn and targeted growths of Knotweed can also be tackled if interventions could yield reasonable results.

Communication with the Town will be important in order to hear what is important to the townspeople, to get people on board before actions are taken, and to inform them of ECC's priorities and work. Forums used currently are Eaton Ears (which may not go to all residents), Tattler (goal 2x per year), Nancy's column in the newspaper, and Community Cohort meetings. Ideas include posters/flyers and people stationed at the Town Hall at election and Town Hall Meeting times, ECC members on Foss talking to people, targeted letters in the mail and an expansion of the email list.

The draft ECC Master Plan states the goal of preserving Eaton's natural resources as the job of the Commission, according to NHACC. Making Town Lands available for recreational use by the community is a subset of the ECC's mission but should be managed so as to provide protection for watersheds and habitats that would otherwise be damaged by human use.

The ECC manages Town lands directly, but also aims to invite private landowners to participate in efforts to protect shared watersheds and habitats within the Town, given our goal.

ECC's Conservation Plan will help inform the Town's 2025 Master Plan. Since objectives listed in the Town's Master Plan often result in the enactment of Ordinances, care must be taken to separate those ECC goals that would benefit from the establishment of Ordinances from those that would be better handled by reaching out for voluntary support of ECC initiatives. The overall

ECC Conservation Plan could be included in the Town's master plan as an appendix document for town information purposes.

Dennis will establish an NRI study group to review mapping in depth, making recommendations to the ECC about the most critical areas in Eaton to focus on. Paul and Dagmar will join the group. Kevin Conklin and Bruce McBrien will be asked to join as well.

ECC will work on the Questionnaire that will be sent to Town residents and tax payers with the Planning Board. It was suggested that we might get help from NHACC or others accustomed to creating questionnaires to fine tune the questions to avoid leading questions and ensure that the most useful information is gathered.

#### **10. OTHER BUSINESS –**

USVLT sent a letter stating that they surveyed and certified their easement adjacent to Foss. They also appreciate being notified of the burn that took place in the spring of 2023. Marnie will reach out to Kurt Willson about coming onto the ECC and will submit the ECC's Year End Report to the Selectmen.

Next meeting: February 12, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 12, 2024

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

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

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$15,806.00	CD \$10,125.80
Foss Mountain Fund	\$16,265.64	
Forest Management Fund	\$18,140.99	CD \$30,377.39
Land Conservation Fund	\$ 9,379.79	CD \$10,125.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,592.42</b>	<b>\$110,221.41 ALL</b>
Donation box at trailhead	\$32.00	
Website Donation Income	\$0	

The ECC voted to reimburse Heather McKendry \$12.00 for the ECC email account annual fee.

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – Judy Fowler and Dick Brisbois will be recognized at the next Town meeting.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – 11 Zoning Amendments were approved by the Board. The amendment most relevant to the ECC is the loosening of the Steep Slope regulations to require surveying of land within 200' of only the area within a parcel that would be disturbed by development, including driveways, rather than the whole parcel. The PB will continue work on the Master Plan and is asking the ECC to submit input / language that it will review for potential inclusion in the final plan. The PB also asks for the ECC's input to a questionnaire that will be sent out to Eaton residents and tax payers. (*reminder*: It was suggested that we might get help from NHACC to fine tune the questions to avoid leading questions and ensure that the most useful information is gathered). Final decisions on what will be included in the Master Plan will be made by the Planning Board, as according to Statute.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Dick and Marnie will talk with Ryan Bushnell about his interest and intentions regarding blueberry field management.

7. **TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – no issues

8. **FOREST MANAGEMENT** – no issues

9. **WATER MANAGEMENT** – Green Mountain Conservation Group submitted their Long Pond Report for 2018-2023. Bob Craycraft submitted the Crystal Lake Secci disc report for 2023, Bob Craycraft will need to charge for future Chlorophyll and phosphorus analysis at \$14.00 each

test. Paul talked with Bob about sharing equipment with Mark Carbone, but Bob can supply equipment if this does not prove to be efficient.

#### **10. COMMUNITY COHORT -**

The next Conservation Conversation on "Wetlands Conservation" will be led by Dan Coons, Resource Scientist at ILEX Consulting in Wolfboro, to be held on Thursday, February 29, 6:30 - 8:00 PM at Eaton Town Hall. News of the Conversation will be posted and Barbara Richter of the NHACC will also be publicizing. Dan was interested to hear of Paul's goal to become certified in Wetlands Assessments and would be willing to mentor him.

Dennis proposed a talk in April or May on Invasive Species with potential presenters to include Wendy Scribner, Carroll County Forester, and Doug Cygan (NHDA Invasive Species Coordinator). Dagmar will help Dennis organize.

Another proposed topic might be Yard maintenance with the NH Lakes Association

NRI Study Group - Dennis Sullivan, Bruce McBrien, Kevin Conklin, Paul Nuccio, Dagmar von Schwerin and Kurt Wilson. First discussion was on Wetlands and Water, with additional topics suggested by NHACC to follow including Wildlife Habitat and Rare Species, Unfragmented Lands, Forestry and Farmland, and Steep Slopes, among others. The group will study the NRI Maps and report back on overlaps and areas in Eaton where the most urgent preservation efforts will be recommended. Paul and Dagmar can update the ECC on an ongoing basis. Dennis is aiming for a final report in approx. 2 months. A supplemental NRI map focused on Town Forest lands was initially proposed to be separated from the public NRI, however the group felt that it should be included in the overall NRI.

#### **10. OTHER BUSINESS –**

John Border cleaned out the Wood duck box - no eggs / activity reported.

Paul will check with Mark Carbone about Bob Craycraft's water test results.

Paul has almost completed all boundary assessments, giving the ECC the info needed to determine which boundaries need marking and / or clarification.

Next meeting: March 11, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 11, 2024

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

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the February 12 meeting were accepted.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$15,828.48	CD \$10,165.78	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$16,288.77		
Forest Management Fund	\$18,166.79	CD \$30,497.34	
Land Conservation Fund	\$ 9,393.13	CD \$10,165.78	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,677.17</b>	<b>CD \$50,828.90</b>	<b>\$110,506.07</b>
Donation box at trailhead	\$00.00		
Website Donation Income	\$0		

The ECC voted to pay NHACC 2023 dues of \$250 from the Conservation Fund.

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – Selectmen discussed retaining proper formality at all Board meetings, with Board members seated at the table and members of the public seated in the room and invited to contribute to discussions when recognized by the Board.

Blue Sky Tower contacted the Selectmen regarding the use of Towle Hill. Since then, Mariner Tower has expressed an interest in looking at Towle Hill site as a possibility. Dick and Greg Grinnell walked the site located on Town land (Boise lot) which has a decent road leading to the top of the hill. This site may be preferable to other sites discussed due to the existing road. A cell tower could also bring steady income for the Town. One cell tower can improve service although not for everyone in the valley, but hopefully for many people who currently lose all connections during power outages when Fidium service goes down. The Board will meet with Mariner to learn more.

Stubby will be repairing a washout on Potter Road. Trees have been tagged on Potter and Foss Mountain Roads by Stubby and the power company for cutting. As they are both Scenic Roads, any cutting plans will have to go through the Planning Board and a public hearing for approval.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – The PB is discussing the Master Plan in sections, with recreation, natural resources and administration discussed to date. Dennis suggested that a joint meeting of the PB and ECC might be useful to discuss overlapping issues including trails, town land revenue and costs, etc. A jointly developed questionnaire will be crucial to learning what the Town wants to see. Education and context will be important in phrasing questions to get the most useful information. For example, the public may want to have more trails on public land, but they will need to know that there are associated costs and responsibilities for trails including

parking, road and trail maintenance, clean up/trash removal, monitoring and volunteer coordination. The original and ongoing costs of the Foss Mountain trail can be used as an example.

Concern that land in current use generates reduced income needs to be analyzed on a cost to benefit ratio. A UNH study shows that in most cases, the money saved by lowered demand for services outweighed income brought in by development. Much of Eaton's land is also not easily developed as 70% of the land consists of steep or very steep slopes. Background issues such as these need to be understood by townspeople responding to a questionnaire. PB discussed other ways to generate more income from Town land – tapping for maple syrup, community gardens – all not very profitable.

The PB plans to send out the questionnaire this summer. The ECC is planning to submit their input to the master plan by June. A joint PB/ECC meeting could take place in June or earlier to coordinate the development of the questionnaire and final content, although the PB has the final say on content. (*reminder*: It was suggested that we might get help from NHACC to fine tune the questions to avoid leading questions and ensure that the most useful information is gathered)

**6. FOSS MANAGEMENT** – the trail is in reasonable shape but will need some maintenance. Marnie and Dick will talk to Ryan Bushnell in April about blueberries. Russ and Jenny Lanoie's friend Renee Ciulla, an instructor at UMass School of Agriculture, is interested in picking. Dick will also visit the Amish market to assess interest. Members of ECC were encouraged to work with Ryan and any other pickers this year to better understand the process of picking and distribution of blueberries for sale.

**7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – Eaton Master Plan language – see Community Cohort

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT** – no issues

**9. WATER MANAGEMENT** – no issues

**10. COMMUNITY COHORT** - The next Conservation Conversation on "Invasive Species" will be led by Wendy Scribner, Carroll County Forester, to be held on Thursday, May 30 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM at Eaton Town Hall.

*Eaton Master Plan Comments* - The group reviewed the Recreation section of the 2015 Master Plan. Marnie took notes of everyone's input and will collate for everyone to review and discuss at the next meeting, along with the Land Use section.

Some possible goals and objectives discussed and slated for more research include: Recreation on town lakes impacts the work of ECC as it contributes to the degradation of water quality and the danger of the introduction of invasive species. Use of the boat launch cannot be restricted to use by Eaton residents, but signage can be posted and it may be possible to require cleaning of motor boats, kayaks, row boats and paddle boards. ECC needs to increase awareness of the NRI as a resource, and provide education opportunities, including leaving literature on Town Hall desks for people to read while they wait. A goal would be to encourage responsible recreation while maintaining and preserving town lands. Recreation options might also change with climate change. If we encourage people to use town lands more, we will need money and people to manage increased use. Recreation can also be about being a citizen scientist, or making art in open spaces. Encouraging use of town lands should be focused on younger

generations who may not have grown up being outside, and who need to feel invested and interested in preserving our natural landscapes and habitats.

#### **11. OTHER BUSINESS –**

Kristie Foster Carbone spoke about her discussions with Wendy Scribner who can lead a Conservation Conversation on invasive species in May. She can discuss various methods used to date in Europe and the US on representative species such as knotweed and buckthorn and show attendees some of the invasives in the Town Hall parking lot. It was agreed that the ECC will play the role of Educator for the community only. ECC may tackle specific areas of growth in the future, but the use of any kind of pesticide is not considered a good idea at this time.

Henney Fund Tin Mountain summer camp scholarships – Dagmar will work with Judy to take over the process. The ECC voted to set aside \$1,000 for scholarships and \$1,000 for Paul Nuccio to attend Wetland Certification Training classes.

Next meeting: April 8, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary



## EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 15, 2024

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

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the March 11 meeting were accepted.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$15,850.99	CD \$10,205.92	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$16,311.94		
Forest Management Fund	\$18,192.63	CD \$30,617.92	
Land Conservation Fund	\$ 9,406.44	CD \$10,205.92	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,762.05</b>	<b>CD \$51,029.61</b>	<b>\$110,791.66</b>
Donation box at trailhead	\$00.00		
Website Donation Income	\$0		

The ECC voted to pay NHACC 2024 dues of \$250 from the Conservation Fund.

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – There will be a public hearing on Wednesday, April 17th to discuss cutting of trees on Potter and Foss Mountain Roads tagged by Stubby Heath and the electric utility company.

The Selectmen declined to submit a Dredge and Fill Permit for removal of woody material from Snow Brook along Potter Road as that is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. The Town will consult with NRCS for their opinion. NRCS recommendations in the past have involved adding natural barriers to brooks and adding plantings to stabilize shorelines. The Selectmen will use this opportunity to work with the landowners to ensure they understand the reasons for chosen approaches.

Blue Sky Tower discussed the potential placement of a cell tower on Towle Hill, indicating that a 3-mile circumference around the tower might gain cell coverage. Since the topography is not flat, this estimate is optimistic, and the public should be made aware that one cell tower will not guarantee resolution of all issues. Income would be \$1,000/month with additional % payment from any parties adding their equipment to the tower. Dan Stepanauskas, Town Forester, would like to be involved in discussions about the access road to ensure that any future logging would not be compromised. Johnny Edge is also discussing placement of a cell tower on his land.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – Since the last Master Plan in 2015, new ordinances such as steep slopes restrictions, ridgeline protection and home business allowances have been enacted. In the questionnaire being developed, the PB will ask residents how they feel about these new

ordinances – the Town often only hears from people who are unhappy and it will be important to know what residents overall feel about them. The questionnaire will also ask what residents would like to see enacted in the upcoming decade such as wetland protections, lighting ordinances, cell coverage, etc. A joint meeting of the PB and ECC will be held in June to discuss Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) as pertains to the questionnaire and input to the Town Master Plan.

**6. FOSS MANAGEMENT** – the ECC discussed and approved payment up to \$1,000 for work on the Foss Trail by Ryan Harvey.

Ryan Bushnell will pick blueberries this year but has trouble finding people to pick. Members of ECC have volunteered to help and hopefully other workers will be found to pick during two weeks in August (\$15-\$20/hour if experienced/good with rakes).

Marnie updated the Foss website regarding the opening of the road to Foss in 2-3 weeks. Dick will discuss installing a temporary "Road Closed" sign with the other Selectmen.

**7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – The next Conservation Conversation on "Invasive Species" will be led by Wendy Scribner, Carroll County Forester, to be held on Thursday, May 23 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM at Eaton Town Hall. There will also be a field trip to study invasives.

Dennis presented the new Town Lands section of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) including Town Land boundaries, Dan Stepanauskas' forestry maps, Sewall Study maps, Foss blueberry fields and a map of Town lands and their history. Dennis will write a report on the status of Town boundaries. The NRI group will prepare a final report of their findings at their next meeting and present it at the May ECC meeting.

*Eaton Master Plan Comments* - The group reviewed the Recreation section of the 2015 Master Plan. Edits were suggested and Marnie, Robin and Dagmar will collate comments into a new draft to be sent to the ECC members for comments and review at the May meeting. The Natural Resources and Land Use sections will also be discussed at the next meeting. The Conway Planning Board is working on their master plan and it would be a good idea to coordinate with the Conway Lake Conservation Association as well.

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT** – Dan Stepanauskas is working on "assisted migration", planting desirable trees in specific locations for Tin Mountain via grant funding. Dan was asking about the timeline for repairing the end of Willis Bean Road in Maine re: future logging operations.

**9. WATER MANAGEMENT** – Paul Nuccio will take UNH extension courses in June and October as part of his certification in Wetlands management. Paul has contacted Bob Craycraft and Mark Carbone and will begin water testing on Long Pond.

#### **10. OTHER BUSINESS –**

Dick Fortin attended an NRCS workshop discussing their initiatives in Carroll County. Dick discussed the fact that the NRCS does not adequately support municipalities with grant funding. Sharing costs would go a long way to resolving long-standing problems that are too expensive for small towns to deal with.

The NH Lakes Conference is taking place on June 6 and may be available to Zoom at attendees' convenience. All ECC members are encouraged to participate.

Robin as Town Clerk received a Dredge and Fill Permit by Notification for a beach replenishment on Conway Lake. The ECC has the option of signing the permit or not. Signing it will speed up the review process by the Wetlands Bureau in Concord. Paperwork was reviewed and signed by Marnie on behalf of the ECC.

Next meeting: May 13, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 23, 2024

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

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the April 15 meeting were accepted.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$ 9,421.25		
Forest Management Fund	\$18,221.18	CD \$30,751.18	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$16,337.54	CD \$10,250.39	
Conservation Fund	\$15,625.63	CD \$10,250.39	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$59,605.60</b>	<b>CD \$51,251.96</b>	<b>\$110,857.56</b>
Donation box at trailhead	\$7.00		
Website Donation Income	\$0		

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – met with Beach Attendants and decided they will not monitor boaters at the put-in – it's not possible to oversee both the beach and the launch. Robin discussed the idea of organizing volunteers to talk to boaters. NH Lakes group and the Conway Lake Conservation Association (CLCA) could advise how best to train volunteers if we have enough to make an impact. Note: large HP motorboats have been seen on Crystal Lake but if they use their trolling motor only (under 10 HP), they are allowed.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – A joint meeting of the PB and ECC will be held in June or July to discuss the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) as pertains to the questionnaire and input to the Town Master Plan. The Conway Planning Board is working on their master plan and it would be a good idea to coordinate with the Conway Lake Conservation Association as well.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Dick and Mamie will discuss the blueberries lease with Ryan Bushnell, hoping to get more money per pint as the ECC does all the work on the fields. They may also discuss the NRCS mulching project with Ryan (as it has to go through him). There are standards to be met for this grant funding, and a manure spreader would have to get into the fields, so it was decided to wait until after the next burn to attempt this, if at all. Trail repairs will take place on Tuesday May 21st with Ryan Harvey and volunteers.

7. **TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – The next Conservation Conversation on "Invasive Species" will be led by Wendy Scribner, UNH Cooperative Extension Forester on Thursday, May 23 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM at Eaton Town Hall. She plans on making her presentation outside as a field trip to study invasives, weather and black flies permitting.

**NRI Report** - Dennis presented the NRI report – two key issues of concern are protection of watersheds and maintaining large unfragmented blocks.

*Wetlands, Water, Buffers* – Dennis - Extremely important for multiple reasons including use by people, for recreation and infrastructure, also essential for wildlife sustenance and corridors. Recommends working with the Planning Board on language protecting important bodies of water along with more conversations with landowners and education for all Eaton residents.

*Unfragmented Blocks* - Kevin & Dennis – The Map at the end of the NRI report prioritizes geographical areas of concern. Many acres are already protected as Town Land, steep slopes or ridgeline protection areas, but many important parcels are in private hands. The NRI group recommends starting with conversations with key landowners to see where they stand on conservation issues. At the same time, work on regulations should continue. One approach does not preclude the other as both are likely needed to protect Eaton's resources. Education and one-on-one conversations, will be key to acceptance of both formal and informal protections.

*Priorities on Potter Road & Route 153 Ponds* - Paul – These two areas represent extensive watersheds hosting cold water fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds and mammals. They store stormwaters, reduce erosion, enhance water quality, and are a scenic asset. The Snow Brook Inlet is fed by 5 brooks and 10 watershed catchments originating in Eaton and is an extremely sensitive area of high natural resource value, particularly where Potter Road meets Conway Lake. This confluence creates a highly sensitive shallow cove zone for aquatic plants that enrich water and trap sediment. Rental companies bring large groups of kayakers and canoeists to South Cove, launching them into Conway Lake with little or no monitoring or control. Paul recommends increasing ECC's focus on Potter Road and Conway Lake due to high use and the clear danger of introduction of invasive species.

*Wildlife Corridors*- Paul – Animals often follow watersheds and corridors / routes often connect particularly when crossing barriers. Route 153 is the most significant barrier with game cams recording crossings on Long Pond Rd, by Thurston Pond and from Lyman Mountain across 153 through to the Maine border. In general, protecting major watersheds will also protect wildlife corridors as animals use waterways to move through Town lands.

*Water monitoring* – Paul - Water quality is good so far. Monitoring of several lakes was done by ECC and numerous volunteers in the late 90s and Paul has re-started monitoring of Long Pond and Thurston Pond in 2024. Ideally all Eaton's water should be monitored but it is labor intensive and more people would be needed. It will be important to identify which water bodies feed aquifers - an example being the chain of ponds along 153 - and run conductivity measurements to monitor the impact of run off and road salt on water quality. Paul recommends pushing for the use of brine rather than salt. The Selectmen are scheduled to talk with NHDOT in June and Dick will bring this up to see what ECC can do to make this happen. ECC should also investigate whether thru trucks carrying toxic materials can be restricted from traveling on 153 and develop an emergency plan with equipment / materials in place to control any spills that do occur. An emergency plan should also be in place in the event of the introduction of any invasive species. Dick recommends starting with NHDOT and then if not successful, proceeding to talk to our State representative.

*Beaver Management* – Kevin & Dagmar - Beaver are a keystone species (disproportionately large effect on their environment) and government programs are re-introducing beaver to solve water problems brought on by development and climate change. Beaver help with increased water retention, aquifer replenishment, reducing effect of floods by slowing water, water quality w/ sediment retention and nutrient cycling, creating wetlands habitats, increasing, biodiversity, and leaving behind beaver meadows when they move on. They also create problems when their

dams cause damage to infrastructure. The NRI group recommends investigating mitigation options (relocation, protection and proper design of culverts to discourage beaver, protecting trees, dam water levelers) and having plans in place for the Selectmen and Stubby to use to deal with problem beaver.

*Educational Outreach* – Dagmar – Education came up when discussing all NRI topics. Townspeople need to know why ECC initiatives are important and beneficial to them specifically. One-on-one conversations with large landholders will be important. Conservation Conversations about Eaton's water and unfragmented land can continue (although reach is not typically large) as can the posting of info and maps in Town Hall, distribution of flyers on Town election days and updates in the bi-annual Tatler. Literature from Taking Action for Wildlife, USFWS and others about Beaver, wildlife corridors, aquifers, etc can be displayed in Town Hall. Kevin volunteered to help ECC create short videos to be hosted on the Town and Foss Mountain websites (w/ QR code links) and Bruce McBrien would like to help develop regular news items about ECC efforts thru social media and EatonEars. Signage and kiosks should be located at key watercraft put-ins and trails with links to the NRI and further information. The Town will need to have emergency plans on hand for toxic spills or invasive species introductions. Approaches can be devised by collaborating with GMCG, Conway Lake Conservation Assoc, USVLT and Audubon, among others.

*Conservation Priorities Map* - Dennis – The last page of the NRI report is a map showing the areas deemed the most important to protect. When asked how the NRI is kept current, Dennis explained that its maps are updated when various not for profit, state and federal sources including USFWS, USVLT, UNH etc update their information. The orgs' criteria may differ slightly, but comparisons are useful.

*Discussion* - The NRI group will continue to meet and be available for actions like education and input to the next draft of the PB Wetlands Protection ordinance.

We want to first get input from people through outreach rather than telling them what we propose – find out what is likely to succeed – explain trade-offs - losing some rights for the common good. It all works hand in hand. The NRI is a good tool for conversations with individuals and townspeople in general. The questionnaire will also be important to assess how the community feels about recent ordinances and what they want to see next.

Community projects were discussed as a good way to bring people together around issues of concern. Since water seems to be the most important topic, a water-related project should be organized first, perhaps in collaboration with CLCA and GMCG who have experience organizing events.

Streams - ECC and numerous volunteers tested waters in the 90s. The general consensus at the time was that Eaton did not need regulations related to streams. That may be changing with increasing population and climate change.

Marnie proposed setting up a subcommittee for all water issues to study buffers at important locations, working with NHDOT on mowing and salting and talking to landowners as well as developing kiosks and signage at boat launching sites and monitoring those locations for invasive species.

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT – no issues**

**9. WATER MANAGEMENT** – see discussion of NRI report above. Conway Lake Conservation Assoc has an excellent website with lots of info. The August meeting is particularly interesting. Steve Kafka of CLCA wants to come to ECC to listen and possibly participate in ECC in future.

The NH Lakes Conference is taking place on June 6 and may be available to Zoom at attendees' convenience. All ECC members are encouraged to participate.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS –**

Check "no picking" signs on Foss and run a string around Brooks Pasture. Marnie has 10 bags of Sulphur left which we can use after the next burn – probably every five years

Marnie will continue with bird ID walks Wednesday mornings. It would be good to monitor pollinators also if someone is interested.

Tin Mountain summer camp grants will need to be processed soon. Dagmar will contact Judy Fowler to learn how to manage this.

Marnie will send letters to all summer Camps reminding them of Eaton's policies

Marnie will ask the Watsons to check Willis bean Road and touch up the water bars, noting that they should be rounded to make the dip less dangerous to mountain bikers.

Next meeting: June 10, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary

## 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	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$59,138.11</b>	<b>CD \$51,468.30</b>	<b>\$110,606.41</b>
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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>'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

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 8, 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 Lindsay Kafka.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the June 10 meeting were accepted.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$ 9,448.53		
Forest Management Fund	\$18,273.44	CD \$30,998.72	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$15,736.72	CD \$10,332.91	
Conservation Fund	\$15,112.00	CD \$10,332.91	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$58,571.19</b>	<b>CD \$52,664.54</b>	<b>\$110,235.73</b>
Donation box at trailhead	\$74.00		
Website Donation Income	\$0		

Tin Mountain requested another \$20 to make an even \$1,000 - Dick will donate \$20

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – NHDOT has commissioned Coleman to replace the culvert on 153 between the stop sign and EVS with an open bottom culvert to expedite fish passage. Route 153 will be closed for 5 days in July. Notices will be sent out to residents.

Caretakers of a private owner's land came to Selectmen with a plan to remove wood debris from Snowbrook near 153. They understood that DES said they did not need a permit. Snowbrook is in designated wetlands, and the debris in the stream is actually desirable from an environmental standpoint in slowing down the stream's flow in heavy rains and melts. DES does not have the manpower to come out to assess the proposed work. Since this might be an urgent matter, Dick will call DES to verify that a permit is needed. ECC or Selectmen will reach out to the landowner concerned to keep communications open and helpful.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – A joint meeting of the Select Board, Planning Board and ECC to discuss the questionnaire and input to the Town Master Plan will be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Ryan Bushnell signed the lease to pick blueberries offering 85 cents per pint, up from 75 cents per pint. Lower Brooks Pasture has a lot of berries. Upper Brooks had span worm last year and has no berries. Ryan is hesitating to pick in July as he feels the proportion of green to ripe berries is still not profitable, however he waited too long last year and some of the crop was over ripe. Dick will check the fields and call Ryan to come earlier this year if ripe.

Ryan and ECC are looking for people to help pick berries. Pickers will need to be good at using a rake. Paul will pick for a couple of days. Others to ask may be Timo Gould and Rick Wilcox's son who has a farm in Conway.

Dick cut hardwood sprouts and broadleaf spirea in Brooks Pasture and north of the trail again, focusing on areas where Ryan picks berries. Dick feels the frequent cutting in June and July this year is helping to gain ground in these crucial areas. He was reminded to track his time. Paul will go up with Dick to learn how and when to cut. Paul should track time too.

Horizon Forestry is due to cut the part of the ridge that did not get burned, all of Brooks Pasture and the area north of the trail. Since it is better to cut saplings in spring / summer when the trees' energy is not stored in the roots Marnie will call to see whether Horizon could come twice, perhaps cutting just the ridge in the spring and the fields in fall when they usually come, but likely they will come late fall as usual. Also, USFWS contacted Marnie about a possible burn in spring 2025 of areas needing cutting and parts that did not get burned last year.

The holes left after removal of boulders can be pretty nasty. Filling should be upgraded to sand and/or cheap gravel top-dressed with clean bark chips (no contact with knotweed) as plain bark just mulches down. This work could be done after a burn. Stubby could get the sand/gravel up the hill for us.

The photographer for a recent wedding at Foss offered to collaborate with ECC to rewrite our permit to encourage photographers to make a donation to Foss.

**7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – Commission members were asked to review the most recent draft of the Master Plan Recreation section and send / bring edits to Marnie.

ECC discussed the draft of proposed questionnaire, specifically #7 about Foss Mountain. Discussed costs of trails, also from the perspective of USVLT where Lindsay K was a Board member. Trails take a lot of work and money to keep up and must be carefully planned to protect habitat and wildlife. NIMBA and Backcountry Alliance are experienced in planning trails and other recreation options. If this question is included, it should use actual \$ and time donation amounts to give perspective. Instead of asking only about Foss Mountain as a recreation option, it might be better to ask what Eaton residents like to do more broadly.

Discussed the possibility of making the questionnaire much more general as some of the questions seem to be leading respondents down specific paths. Help from NHACC in drafting questions would be useful. May also be good to follow the CIP process with 2 public meetings for discussion and feedback. Timing in this divided election year might also be problematic. The Town learned during the CIP and budget vote that it's all about quality of life, including costs for many people. We need to outline what the most important points are and let people give feedback from their perspective.

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT** – no issues

**9. WATER MANAGEMENT** – Cliff will dive Crystal this summer to check for invasives. Discussion was had regarding Eaton's part in protecting the south end of Conway Lake from aquatic invasives.

# 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.

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

September 9, 2024

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

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the August 12 meeting were accepted.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$13,980.81	CD \$10,423.15	
Forest Management Fund	\$18,330.44	CD \$31,269.45	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$16,283.99		
Conservation Fund	\$14,136.23	CD \$10,423.15	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$60,771.47</b>	<b>CD \$52,115.75</b>	<b>\$112,887.22</b>
Donation boxes	\$0		
Website Donation Income	\$0		

Renewed CDs for 10 more months at 4.5%

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – would like Paul to meet with them as the new Chair of ECC. Discussed possible hiring of an NHACC Intern asking ECC to clarify legal parameters of NHACC stipend payment process. Also discussed the Grove at Crystal Lake which looks in reasonably good shape but showing evidence of new direct access points, potentially affecting water quality. Replanting along the shore can help. Need to clarify whether management / monitoring is the responsibility of the Selectmen or ECC.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – Met on August 21 to review input received by ECC and Select Board. Working on new MP and questionnaire, planning to complete questionnaire by next meeting.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Paul has not heard back about training burn and Horizon has not confirmed their dates. Dick is investigating purchase of blueberry winnowers – seller would need to know by December 2024.

The Foss trail is in good shape – Dick will check again after rain. ECC will organize a crew in October to retrieve material and reshape water bars, adding one more water bar by upper kiosk. Dick refreshed the blazes at the summit.

7. **TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT** – no issues

8. **FOREST MANAGEMENT** – Dan Stepanauskas and Paul will walk town lines in Sept or Oct.

**9. WATER MANAGEMENT** – Discussed conversations with DES about various ways of creating a low salt zone along 153' and Brownfield Road by the Shepard River. Contacts: David Gray, Lisa Marks, and Nancy Spaulding of NHDOT.

ECC edited draft of a letter that asks local commercial boat rental groups not to use the Potter Road access point to Conway Lake. Steve will help clarify language regarding grandfathered uses. Final letter will be sent out from Paul as Chair of ECC.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS –**

Discussed potential hiring of intern to be funded with a stipend from NHACC. CLCA and Chocorua Lake Assoc. may want to share an intern. Steve will find out how funding works to determine whether we might be able to put this in place for this fall. Paul and Steve will work on the application and send to Lianne to forward to ECC for review. Potential projects for this year and next include monitoring for invasives on town lakes, blueberry picking and field restoration, and forestry initiatives with Dan Stepanauskas and ECC. Application due October 11.

ECC will schedule Cliff Cabral for an invasives check for Crystal Lake for next year.

NHANRS (Assoc. Natural Resource Scientists) recommends signing up Oct 1 to start new membership on their cycle.

Town of Brownfield voted to put gravel / refuse pit development plan at the end of Willis Bean Road in moratorium to give their planning board time to put together a response.

Dick talked to Stubby about adding a water bar after the bridge on Willis Bean Road and will get an estimate. ECC will schedule water bar cleaning sessions for Willis Bean Road after rains at the same time as Foss Mountain clean up.

Next meeting: October 14, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 14, 2024 FINAL

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

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

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$14,849.61	CD \$10,460.84	
Forest Management Fund	\$18,354.42	CD \$31,382.53	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$16,559.97		
Conservation Fund	\$13,487.99	CD \$10,460.84	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$115,556.20</b>	<b>CD \$52,304.21</b>	<b>\$167,860.41</b>
Donation boxes	\$128.25		
Website Donation Income	\$320.00		

Henney Fund asked ECC to review parameters of fund to meet their requirements

NHANRS annual dues of \$30.00 paid by Paul – reimburse out of Land Conservation Fund

Stubby estimates that a new water bar on Willis Bean Road will cost \$400. ECC approved the expense to be paid out of the Forest Management Fund.

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – working on Building Permits for various projects

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – PB met on 9/18/24 and revised questionnaire. Survey will be sent to residents and property owners in October, to be completed by mid-November. October meeting will focus on zoning amendments.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Chris O'Brien, Prescribed Fire Coordinator for the Forest Protection Bureau, said training burns will start in fall of 2025 and again in 2026 and 2027. Will meet in November to discuss best timing.

Ted Kendziora of USFW is working towards funding a spring burn and has been informed that we are looking to burn only Brooks Pasture and the north side of the trail. Horizon Forestry is cutting Foss today and tomorrow.

Trail maintenance day scheduled for Sunday Oct 20 9:00 am. Will also work on Willis Bean Road if there is time and check bear dog signs are still up as bear dog trucks have been seen.

Dick bought a winnower and will rebuild it over the winter. Having a winnower on hand may attract pickers to Foss – if not Dick will sell it after fixing it up.



Discussed more regular update of Foss Mountain website – first edit will be to highlight a specific donation of \$300 made in honor of Samuel Howe, who particularly loved Foss.

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

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT** – Dan Stepanauskas and Paul will walk town lines on 10/22. Dennis provided a summary of what needs to be repainted and painted. Whale's Back needs to be surveyed. Paint around Henney property is in good shape.

**9. WATER MANAGEMENT** – Dick Fortin will submit a written inquiry to NHDOT to request a low salt zone along 153. This starts the process formally.

Cliff Cabral has agreed to plan another Crystal Lake dive to check for invasives in Spring 2025.

Three locations on Crystal Lake were tested for E.Coli – all came back within acceptable limits.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS –**

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

The Town of Porter, ME passed the moratorium on landfill development

The NHACC internship program is on hold, hopefully to be offered again next year.

NHACC annual meeting is being held on November 2 at Pembroke Academy in NH.

GMCG sent an invitation to attend a gathering of other local CC's on Friday Nov 15 at noon. Meeting at the Blue Heron House at 236 Huntress Bridge Rd. Effingham.

Waukeela beach knotweed is dead. Dick has seen Emerald Ash borer on several of his trees.

Discussed possibility of holding monthly work sessions in order to make progress on issues brought up at meetings – keeping meetings more concise and separate time to focus on topics.

Next meeting: November 11, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary

# 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

# EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 9, 2024

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Paul Nuccio, Dick Fortin, Robin Nuccio and Holly Fortin. Also present was Dagmar von Schwerin.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the November 11 meeting were accepted.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Land Conservation Fund	\$19,295.72	CD \$10,536.64	
Forest Management Fund	\$18,399.46	CD \$31,609.93	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$17,424.62		
Conservation Fund	\$13,048.12	CD \$10,536.64	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$68,168.12</b>	<b>CD \$52,683.21</b>	<b>\$120,851.33</b>
Donation boxes	\$00.00		
Website Donation Income	\$00.00		

ECC voted to pay NHACC membership dues of \$250  
\$2,000 reimbursement from the Henney Fund will be received soon. A call will be scheduled with Henney Fund manager to clarify expenditures related to initial terms of Fund.

*Treasurer's report was accepted.*

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – Wrote letter to DOT asking for field review of 153 and Brownfield Road as first step in requesting low-salt designation in Eaton. Selectmen will review Ridge Road Special Exception ruling by PB and ZBA (see below) at next meeting.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – Joint hearing with the ZBA of an application of Special Exception to approve a short-term rental on Ridge Road which was approved in a split vote. The PB also reviewed three zoning amendments and agreed to hold a public hearing as these will be voted on by the townspeople next March. Amendments cover restrictions concerning campers and other related recreation vehicles.

Reviewed PB Questionnaire responses. Results shows substantial support for a new wetlands ordinance. Recreation responses were less clear. ECC members will write up their interpretation of results to discuss at next meeting. A summary will then be submitted to the PB for their review. Of note is the fact that Eaton's inclusion in Conway's recreation program provides opportunities for adults as well as children – a fact some residents may not be aware of.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Met with Chris O'Brien, Prescribed Fire Coordinator for the Forest Protection Bureau, who laid out 3 prescribed burns in 2025, 2026 and 2027. FPB prefers fall burns because fire is easier to contain in the fall. A fall burn, however, would put Brooks Pasture out of cycle for blueberries, so Chris will look at the possibility for a spring burn in 2025 for Brooks. Dick will attend a Zoom meeting tomorrow with state and federal agencies – they are pushing controlled burns in order to reduce fuel available for larger fires.

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 work for winter months. Dennis & Marnie are providing previous work and resources. ECC will schedule a separate meeting after the holidays.

**8. FOREST MANAGEMENT** – Dan and Bruce McBrien are scheduled to paint property on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**9. WATER MANAGEMENT** – Municipality and Commercial Green SnowPro Certification is now being offered but there is no financial support for towns yet. Audrey Voelker is the Coordinator of the Salt Reduction Program and Green SnowPro. The Town of Sandwich uses sand with a minimum of salt. Stubby also tries to limit salt use as it is expensive. He also puts salt on the road after plough runs, not while ploughing as many towns do, which results in salt being ploughed off the road again. Dick will talk to Stubby and William Heath about possibility of completing the Certification. Courses start up again later in 2025.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS –**

GMCG Meeting meeting was attended by Tamworth, Freedom, Ossipee and Eaton CCs as well as Andrea LaMoreaux of NH Lakes. Lots of good discussion and ideas. ECC might take advantage of GMCG Newsletter for visibility and participate in events. GMCG staff can help with monitoring easements and coordinating water quality testing as well as establishment of an intern program. NH Lakes can help ECC with potential Lake Host. Discussed concept of "Village Districts" which are structured to give authority to towns to work together across town lines on issues that impact multiple towns at once. Villages could also share experts – "Circuit Riders" - including wetlands specialists, foresters, legal experts, surveyors, etc. Discussed grant sources for boat washing, invasives remediation, etc. NHACC does have a forum for case studies and "how-to's" about issues that CC's often face – go to Member's Resource Library - <https://www.nhacc.org/resources/>

Budget – need to overlay cash balance for each fund as well as assumptions about income

Beaver Deceivers – Dick attended a Tin Mountain FWS presentation on beaver management and followed up with Kathleen from NH Fish & Game and Nick from USDA to talk about specific solutions which ECC might be able to implement on their own, building "beaver deceivers" to control damage to culverts and roadways. Dick will continue conversation.

Next meeting: January 13, 2025 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary