

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	
TOTALS	\$68,168.12	CD \$52,683.21	\$120,851.33
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 13th.

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