

Eaton Conservation Commission
January 11, 2016

1.Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Present were Marnie Cobbs, Rick Young, Dick Brisbois, Tom, Head and Peter Klose.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 12/14/15 meeting were unanimously accepted with the following change: in the Treasurer's report, the last line should read "50 lb bags" (not 5 lb bags.)

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$10,875.83
Forest Management Fund	34,455.13
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,484.65</u>
	\$52,815.61

Dick reported that we paid bills to Horizon Forestry for cutting on Foss Mt. and to Marnie Cobbs for the sulfur used on Foss Mt.

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Peter reported on activities at Green Mountain Conservation Group. He mentioned that they will need a new Eaton ECC representative as Peter is stepping down in March from that position due to increased demand on his time at Tin Mountain Conservation Center in May.

5.NH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS Marnie revealed a bill of \$236.00 from the NHHACC and asked if we receive any benefits from that group. We decided to await a decision until Paul S. gets back.

6. FOSS MOUNTAIN The blueberry situation on Foss was discussed some more based on Olivia's statement that "Sulfur use alone is not sufficient to stop little bluestem grass. Burning is also needed, though higher doses of sulfur may keep the grass from spreading." Rick has tried ag vinegar, which works somewhat but the grass does come back over time. No mention of the costs of the vinegar was made. Marnie might try to contact Somali goat herders near Manchester to see if their use might be a solution.

7.FOREST MANAGEMNT Nothing new on forest management.

Next meeting: February 8, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Klose.

Eaton Conservation Commission
March 14, 2016

1.Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Judy Fowler, Peter Klose, Tom Head and Ed Reilly.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 1/11/16 meeting were unanimously accepted. There was no meeting in February, 2016.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$12,442.01
Forest Management Fund	35,001.92
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,509.65</u>
	\$54,953.58

After discussion, it was unanimously voted to pay yearly dues of \$236 for membership in the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

Dick stated that the ECC will receive \$766.41 from the Henney funds for camp scholarships this year.

4.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT A. It was agreed that Diesel Works will do the spring mowing and Rick will coordinate this.

B. It was unanimously voted to extend the contract with Ryan Bushnell so we can complete the rock popping and hole filling project through the NRCS grant. Ryan has proposed placing bee hives at the blueberry fields. More information on this is needed from Ryan. It was unanimously voted that the ECC offer to share on a 50/50 basis in the cost of bees if deemed appropriate. Rick and Peter will discuss all the above issues with Ryan.

D. Continuing Blueberry Management Priorities - Marnie will contact Horizon Forestry about possibly cutting on Foss on a regularly scheduled basis. Burning of the blueberry fields is an ongoing concern and Paul will discuss this with the new NH Division of Forests and lands director Bob Simkins. Discussion included purchasing our own burner and where to get one, and who would do the actual burning. Marnie will talk to Tim Merrifield about how he deals with this. It was unanimously voted to continue with sulfur application in Brooks Pasture and Marnie will talk with Olivia Saunders of NH Cooperative Extension.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL The trail conditions will continue to be monitored.

6.FOREST MANAGEMENT Harvesting on the South Eaton lot is scheduled to resume in June.

The Town land boundary survey continues as an open issue. The management of Town lands is due for a new three-year plan and Paul will talk to Dan Stepanauskas about making one.

7. CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS It was unanimously voted for the ECC to expend up to \$1000 for scholarships for Eaton children to attend Tin Mountain Conservation Center camps.

8. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Peter's involvement there is ending and Kirsten Neves has volunteered to be the Eaton representative. Peter and Dick will continue the GMCG re: water sampling at Long Pond. Marnie will contact Kirsten.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
April 11, 2016

1.Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Peter Klose, Tom Head and Judy Fowler.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 3/14/16 meeting were unanimously approved with the following amendment: in section # 8, typo changed to read "GMCG" and re: water sampling after Peter Klose add "Dick Brisbois."

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$12,442.14
Forest management Fund	35,002.28
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,685.76</u>
	\$55,130.18

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP At the GMCG annual meeting Kristen Neves offered to be their representative from Eaton. She will let the ECC know of any news the ECC minutes. Peter stated that they would like something quarterly for their newsletter.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT A. Rick and Peter met with Ryan Bushnell 3/28/16. The ECC is responsible for filling holes left from rock popping, possibly with sand. The NRCS grant will apply to the cost of mulch that will go on top of the filled holes, helping blueberries fill in. There was discussion of sources of clean wood chips. Rick will contact sources such as Pine Tree Power and Limington Lumber for specifics. Ryan agreed to a 50/50 cost sharing, about \$500 each, for bees in the blueberry fields. He is recommending using bumblebees rather than honey bees.

B. Re: SARES grant researching sulfur application, Olivia Saunders of Cooperative Extension will do another round of soil sampling and weed tallying in the fall 2016.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL The ECC will continue to monitor conditions.

7.FOREST MANAGEMENT A. Dan Stepanauskas is preparing a three-year management schedule and hopes to meet with ECC next month. Frank Perrault will resume timbering on the South Eaton lot. Red maple and sugar maple thinning will begin on Unit 5 (30 acres.)

B. Boundary marking of Town lands – Dave Douglas had begun but still no information. Paul ordered paint for ECC members to do some boundary marking.

Next meeting: May 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission
May 9, 2016

1.Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Judy Fowler and Peter Klose.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 4/11/16 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$12,206.23
Forest management Fund	35,002.55
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,685.76</u>
	\$54,894.54

Dick said he had paid the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions dues. It was unanimously approved to pay Gray Forestry Supply for paint for boundary marking (around \$200) and also Dan Stepanauskas's bill for \$489 for work on his three-year schedule for work on the Town forests.

3.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP No new developments.

4.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Mark Forde is ready to mow on Foss. No new developments with Ryan Bushnell's contract. Discussion continues re: brush control and field burning. Jim Innes, District Ranger at the Saco River Ranger Station may be a resource for volunteers when the ECC wants to do a burn. Per Dave Yarborough, berry specialist at U. of Maine, there is no known effective organic control for little bluestem grass. It was decided to experiment with Rick's idea of using agricultural vinegar.

The new owners of Peddlar's End are redoing their organic certification for management of blueberries.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Marnie reported some slippage of items in a couple of kiosks and there is a tree down at the parking lot. Dick and Peter will address these issues.

6.FOREST MANAGEMENT A. Paul shared Dan's three-year plan for timbering on Town forests.

B.Boundary marking - It was decided to delay additional boundary marking until Dave Douglass responds re: exactly what information the ECC needs in order to proceed.

7.OTHER The water diverter at the second bridge on Willis Bean Rd. is out of place and will be replaced by Stewart Heath. More "No Bear Hunting with Dogs" and "No ATV" signs are needed on Foss and Dick Brisbois will check his inventory of signs. The "Nella B. Henney Trail" sign needs removal as the trail (created about 25 years ago and not maintained) is unwalkable. The "Winter Parking" sign needs redoing.

Next meeting: June 13, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission
June 13, 2016

1.Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois and Tom Head.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 5/9/16 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURERS REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$12,206.32
Forest Management Fund	35,002.82
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,685.76</u>
	\$54,894.90

Timbering income for May was \$391.22. Only pulp was harvested.

It was unanimously voted to pay the following bills: Gray Forestry Supply - \$162.59 for boundary marking supplies; Diesel Works - \$2,500 for mowing on Foss Mt.; \$489 to Dan Stepanauskas for forester services; \$954 to Tin Mountain Conservation Center for camp scholarships.

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Nothing reported this month.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Two years of sulfur application have been done on Brooks pasture. The plan is to reapply sulfur there at the heaviest recommended concentration. If this seems effective the ECC may then apply it on the McKenzie piece.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Dick and Peter cleared the two downed trees, one in the parking lot and one along the trail. They put up the "No Bear Hunting" and "No ATV" signs and removed the "Nella B. Henney Trail" sign from that defunct trail. They also replaced the slipped signs in the kiosks.

7.FOREST MANAGEMENT Dan Stepanauskas will be alternately timbering between Unit # 5 and the South Eaton lot to accommodate the current low pulp wood market.

8.OTHER Dick shared a Boston Globe article about tree pests that are threatening trees in New England. Emerald Ash Borer is as far north as Laconia and completely defoliates ash trees. Rick noted some issues with a plank on the first bridge on Willis bean Rd. and will check into this further.

Next meeting: July 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
July 11, 2016

1.Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 6/13/16 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 9,706.44
Forest Management fund	35,394.38
Land Acquisition fund	<u>7,685.76</u>
	\$ 52,786.58

There was \$2500 paid to Diesel Works for mowing on Foss. Marnie said there was \$100 donated to the land Acquisition Fund specifically for Foss Mt.

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Peter announced that CMCG will hold their "Loons and Tunes" event at Camp Calumet on August 27.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT A. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has \$5776 remaining for the mulching in the Foss blueberry fields. Per Ryan Bushnell the divots from the rock removal are filling in well with berries and he doesn't see the need for mulching. After discussion, it was unanimously voted to not accept the \$5776 from NRCS.

B. Continuing Management - Stewart Heath thinks he can remove the boulders from the rock removal in the fall. Dick will put up the "No Picking" signs in the blueberry fields. Marnie will contact Horizon Forestry about their availability to brush cut all of Brooks Pasture, including blueberries, and also the north blueberry field. There will be more discussion with Ryan on the north field. Cutting on the ridge with a brontosaurus machine may only need to be done every three years or so. Brush piles on the ridge need burning.

Re: sulfur spreading, Olivia Saunders advises it is best to spread it in the heat, pressing it into the ground. The plan is doing this in the fall.

In the fall, ECC plans to create written objectives for the for the all blueberry fields on Foss.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL People have been walking around the ledge area just into the blueberries beyond the end of the gravel trail. This needs further study.

7.FOREST MANAGEMENT Rick checked the planks on the two bridges on the Willis Bean Rd. and said the running planks need replacement.

Frank Perrault has moved timbering operations to Unit # 5.

8.DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION The DOT sent a letter soliciting Eaton's input on potential environmental impacts of their Cascade Brook culvert repair project on Rt. 153 adjacent to Map U-1 Lot 4, the Hartman residence. The Board of Selectmen provided input that seemed to adequately address any concerns the Conservation Commission might have had.

Next meeting will be August 8, 2016
Meeting adjourned at 8: 30 PM.
Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
August 8, 2016

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Rick Young, Dick Brisbois, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler.

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 7/11/16 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 8,689.92
Forest Management fund	35,394.65
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,685.76</u>
	\$51,770.33

A friend of the Dashnaus donated \$100 to the Land Acquisition Fund.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP GMCG will be having their annual "Loons and Tunes" event at Camp Calumet on 8/27/16, 1:00 – 7:00 PM.

5. BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Ryan is picking and there is a good crop of blueberries.

6. FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Peter inspected along the sides of the ledge area just into the blueberries beyond the edge of the gravel trail and he and Dick Fortin agree it looks OK for now. They felt it would be useful to enlarge the toe hold spots and Dick Fortin will ask Jed Talbot about this.

7. FOREST MANAGEMENT Frank Perrault is working in Unit # 5.

8. CRYSTAL LAKE Dick Brisbois and Frank Holmes checked Crystal for invasive species and found none. The lake looked very clear. There is a lot of pipe wort and pickerel weed growing near the Camp Waukeela beach which is due to the decreased water level from lack of rain.

Next meeting: September 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission
September 12, 2016

1.Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Dick Brisbois, Judy Fowler, Peter Klose and Tom Head.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 8/08/16 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 8,689.99
Forest Management Fund	34,905.92
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,685.76</u>
	\$51,281.67

Paul gave Dick a check for \$440 from the sale of timber on Unit # 5.

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Peter reported that the fundraiser "Loons and Tunes" was very well attended.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Ryan Bushnell has finished harvesting. He reported a harvest of 5430 pints, bringing in \$4072.52 @ .75 per pint. Ryan's responsibilities will be different now that his contract is no longer needed for the NRCS mulching grant. It is planned that Stewart Heath will remove the big pile of the rocks removed from the blueberry fields. Rick will follow up.

Marnie had reported that Horizon Forestry still plans to brush cut late September or early October. She will again organize another round of sulfur spreading in Brooks Pasture.

Re: Foss Mountain Management Objectives, Peter and Rick will begin addressing this and bring results to the ECC.

Ryan mentioned that Corey Eastman (discussed in previous meetings) would burn the Foss fields for a fee. Paul will follow up.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Dick Fortin has discussed with Jed Talbot enlarging the toe-holds in the granite just beyond where the trail emerges from the woods.

7.FOREST MNGAGEMENT Frank Perrault continues to work in Unit # 5.

Paul contacted Western Maine Timberlands asking that they rework an area of road on the slope above the easternmost bridge on Willis Bean Rd. and repair the water bars there. They responded saying they would do this work the next day. This raised questions about ownership/control over Class VI roads (Foss Mt. Rd. and Willis Bean Rd.) Rick agreed to look into the specifics re: what control the ECC has over the use of Willis Bean Rd.

The running planks on the Willis Bean bridges are somewhat rotted at their sides but still functional.

8.ELECTION of OFFICERS Rick proposed the current slate of officers be reelected and Tom seconded. Officers continue to be: Chair - Paul Savchick, Vice-chair - Marnie Cobbs, Tresaurer - Dick Brisbois and Secretary - Judy Fowler.

9.TOWN LANDS BOUNDARY LINES Paul has the necessary maps and surveyor's notebook. The plan is to do the remaining lines between leaf fall and first snow.

10.OTHER BUSINESS Dick shared information about he very destructive emerald ash borer that is in southern New Hampshire and working its way north.

Next meeting: October 10, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission
October 10, 2016

1.Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 9/12/16 meeting were unanimously approved.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton conservation Fund	\$ 9,440.08
Forest Management Fund	37,884.51
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,685.76</u>
	\$55,010.35

Ryan Bushnell sent a check for \$4,072 for blueberries. Also, a couple of timber checks have been received.

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Nothing new to report.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Rick will work up a contract, to include proof of liability insurance, between ECC and Ryan Bushnell for picking blueberries, and will bring it to the next ECC meeting.

Sulfur spreading is postponed as sulfur is not in yet. This is best done after frost and before plant emergence so it will be done in the spring.

Brush cutting was done on 10/6/16 by Horizon Forestry along the Foss Mt. ridge, Brooks Pasture and north of the old trail.. Marnie will contact Horizon Forestry re: acres cut for billing.

Although it sounded like Corey Eastman might be interested in burning our blueberry fields, he has told Paul that he is not doing this now but may in the future.

Foss Mt. Management Objectives – After discussion management objectives were stated as: *The town's goal is to keep the historic Commercial Blueberry Fields open and available for commercial picking. Proceeds from the commercial harvest are used to help offset the Town's maintenance costs of the blueberry fields.* The McKenzie piece was discussed in this regard and Marnie will talk to William Abbott, director of the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (which holds an easement), about these objectives.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Dick Fortin discussed with Jed Talbot of Off the Beaten Path possible enlargement of the toeholds and creation of more of them in the ledge area of the trail. Jed gave a price of \$640 - 800 for two people working for a full day. This item is on hold for now.

7.FOREST MANAGEMENT Frank Perrault continues to work in Unit # 5.

Dan Stepanauskas proposes a timber sale on Unit # 4 (southeast corner of Eaton) where there is a good variety of wood.

Boundary line marking – Paul is working with Dave Douglas on what has been done and what still needs to be done.

Willis Bean Rd. – Water bars have been satisfactorily repaired.

8.OTHER BUSINESS Paul shared that the McBrien family has been before the Planning Board re: an alleged timber trespass on their family's property. They are asking for timbering to require notification to abutters. It was suggested that the issue be referred to Steve Kessler of the NH Division of Resources & Economic Development..

Marnie has seen bear hunters with dogs on Foss. More "No Bear Dog" signs are needed, especially towards Eaton's Maine boundary.

Camp Waukeela – Jaysen Rubin, director, has approached selectmen re: dealing with the ongoing issues at the Waukeela beach. They told him to bring the issues to the Conservation Commission.

Next meeting: November 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission
November 14, 2016

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler.

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 10/10/16 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 9,440.15
Forest Management Fund	38,620.22
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>11,758.26</u>
	\$59,818.63

It was unanimously voted to pay Horizon Forestry \$1794 for brush cutting on Foss Mountain.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP There has been outside work including landscaping done on their new building with hopes of completion in 2017.

5. BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT A. The contract between the selectmen and Ryan Bushnell re: cultivation of the blueberry fields on Foss Mt. was reviewed and unanimously approved by the Conservation Commission.

B. Sulfur spreading for grass control on the blueberry fields will resume in the spring.

C. Foss Mt. Management Objectives, both commercial and non-commercial, were presented by Peter and Marnie and unanimously approved.

D. McKenzie tract – There are piles of brush to be burned and concerns about some little blue stem grass growing there. Hopefully volunteers will again help with the burning.

6. NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS It was unanimously voted to pay the \$236 annual dues.

7. FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Dick and Peter re-shingled the roof of the kiosk by the parking lot. Peter refurbished the parking lot sign that had 11 bullet holes in it. The second and third kiosks will be checked in the spring.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT A. Frank Perrault has finished timbering in Unit # 5 and has returned to the S. Eaton lot. McLucas has finished in Unit # 4 (Willis Bean Rd.)

B. Re: oversight and control of Willis Bean Rd., a class VI road, Rick is continuing to research and will get a legal opinion.

Next meeting: December 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
December 12, 2016

1.Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 11/14/16 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$13,512.76
Forest management Fund	39,280.91
Land Conservation Fund	<u>7,685.76</u>
	\$60,479.43

There was a transfer of \$4072, mistakenly placed in the Land Acquisition Fund, transferred back to the Eaton Conservation Fund. Logging receipts of \$660.32 were received.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP The new building at Huntress Bridge Rd. is basically finished.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT The contract between selectmen and Ryan Bushnell is ready for signatures.

6.FOREST MANAGEMENT A. Frank Perrault continues to timber on the South Eaton lot.

B. A letter was received from Mark and Nancy Watson, new owners of Peddler's End, stating their wishes to be able get to and from Peddler's End in the winter with as little environmental impact as possible. They have spoken with selectmen and Rick will speak further with them.

Next meeting: January 9, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler