

Eaton Conservation Commission  
January 11, 2010

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 12/09 meeting were accepted with the following amendment: In item #6 last Paragraph should read: "Boulders were not placed at the Peddler's End logging site due to concern expressed by Chet Russell that they would block a Class VI road."

3.TREASURER'S REPORT Dick Brisbois reported:

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 283.92
Forest Management Fund	<u>16,129.55</u>
	\$16,413.47

Dick. B. said the minimum amount needed to prevent a fee in the ECF is \$500 so he transferred only that much from the FMF.

4.LAND PROTECTION An article in the 1/9/10 Conway Daily Sun described the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT) plan to purchase the 99 acre piece on Foss Mt. Marnie placed information at the Eaton Village Store about this. There was extensive discussion about use of money from the Eaton Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund (LACRF) towards this land purchase. (This can be referenced in the minutes of the 2003 Town Meeting: articles 11 and 12, pages 32 and 33.) Paul also shared the RSA's related to use of the LACRF monies. Although it appears the selectmen are not legally obliged to do so, all parties felt there should be a noticed public hearing on this issue. Therefore, a hearing will be scheduled for Tuesday, February 9 and Dick F., Paul and Marnie will speak to the land purchase issue. Research continues re: need for this to also be presented at Town Meeting.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN Nothing at this time.

6.OTHER BUSINESS A. Two lost snowshoers ended up in Dick B's driveway recently, having tried to traverse the Nella B. Henney Trail from the winter parking on Foss Mt. Rd. The sign marking this old trail will be removed as the trail is nearly nonexistent due to years of overgrowth.

B. Clean-up projects on Town lands were discussed, both for improving certain sites and for getting more townspeople involved in Town lands.

C. Dick F. is trying to reach Amanda Stone at the Wetlands Bureau re: NH Method of Wetland Evaluation.

D. Re: liaison with other towns doing lake monitoring, Marnie talk to Ken McKenzie.

Next meeting: February8, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned t 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler, secretary.

Eaton Conservation Commission  
February 8, 2010

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 1/11/10 meeting were accepted with the following amendment: Section #4 Land Protection - the referenced Town Meeting minutes should be from 2003. Same section, after "Although it appears selectmen are not legally obliged to do so, should read: "all parties felt here should be a public hearing . . . "

3.TREASURER'S REPORT Dick Brisbois reported:

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 783.94
Forest Management Fund	<u>15,630.31</u>
	\$16,414.25

Increase in Conservation Fund due to transfer of \$500 from Forest Management Fund. It was unanimously voted to pay Stewart Heath \$4987 for the work on Willis Bean Rd. in September 2009.

4. LAND PROTECTION Some ECC members met with Tom Henderson of Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT) to discuss issues re: land purchase on Foss Mt. Public hearing on this issue scheduled for 2/09/2010.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN Judy contacted NRCS re: little bluestem grass controls and will follow up with their agronomist.

6.FOREST MANAGEMENT A. Erosion control was attempted on Willis Bean Rd. but was not completely successful and a culvert will be installed in the spring.

B. Paul will ask the forester to meet with the ECC in April, 2010.

7.FUTURE PROGRAMS Paul asked all members to be thinking about future programs for the ECC and be prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.

Next meeting: March 8, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler, secretary.

Eaton Conservation Commission  
March 8, 2010

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 2/08/10 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 783.97
Forest Management Fund	<u>15,630.91</u>
	\$16,414.88

Checks just in from the forester for \$300 – sent by Garland Lumber for veneer scaled higher than anticipated, and \$1184 from Ryan Bushnell and Arthur Harvey for blueberries.

It was unanimously voted to delay approving \$175 bill from NH Association of Conservation Commissions, in part because no one has been receiving the newsletter. Paul has now updated all ECC members' information to them.

4.LAND PROTECTION The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust has purchased the Ethel McKenzie land on Foss Mt. Although the ECC has voted in the past to support this purchase by voting to fund the appraisal of the property, the ECC tonight voted unanimously, at the suggestion of the Town Moderator, to support this purchase. The Town's contribution to this purchase will be voted upon tomorrow at Town Meeting.

5.FOREST MANAGEMENT Dick Fortin is reviewing the Town Forest Management Plan. Dan Stepanauskas offered to reseed the Peddler's End log landing that got so washed out with the rains last year. Paul will contact him about the method he plans to use for reseeding so the problems of last year are avoided.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN Discussion of various approaches to management of the little blue stem grass in the blueberry fields. Marnie to contact Dave Yarborough, berry specialist at U. of Maine and Judy will follow up with Brandon Smith at UNH.

7. SCHOLARSHIPS It was unanimously voted to set aside \$1000 for scholarships for Eaton children to attend Tin Mt. Conservation Center summer camps.

8.FUTURE PROGRAMS Ideas discussed: cutting party to open up the ridgeline on Foss; clearing of the Giles Place and Thurston cellar hole (Bush Rd.); having a more focused way of generating information about ECC projects and greater publicity (Nancy Williams' column in Conway Daily Sun, NHACC newsletter.) Publicity could become a regular agenda item.

Next meeting: April12, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler, secretary.

# Eaton Conservation Commission

April 12, 2010

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Dick Brisbois, Judy Fowler, Tom Head, Dick Fortin and Marnie Cobbs.
2. Minutes were unanimously accepted with the amendment that Ryan's name (section 3) is "Bushnell" (not Burnell.)

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 1,968.01
Forest Management Fund	<u>10,897.86</u>
	\$12,865.87

Nearly \$5000 was paid out to Stewart Heath for roadwork from the Forest Management Fund.

4. LAND PROTECTION The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT) wants interesting and historical information about Foss Mt. to go with the piece of land they have just purchased. On 5/22/10 they are hosting a reception and a walk up Foss Mt.

5. FOREST MANAGEMENT Dick Fortin met with Dan Stepanauskas. They went over the prescriptions from the Forest Management Plan of Eaton Town lands. Dan plotted out where he has timbered and Dick shared these maps with ECC members. Dan will meet with the ECC in May to present his future plans for timber harvests with attention to sustainability and income.

### 6. FUTURE PROGRAMS

Clearing Foss Mt. Ridge – Marnie will organize another clearing party.

Foss Mt. Trail – clearing water bars and trimming brush. Planned for Saturday, May 1. Meet at winter at 9:00 AM with gloves, shovels, loppers, 5 gallon buckets etc. Weather-dependent.

Burning of brontosaurus-cleared area on Foss Mt. - planned for the fall.

Kiosks – Marnie is continuing to work on these. Panorama photo of view from the top of Foss to be placed in the lower kiosk. Dick Fortin to give information to Marnie about bald knob ecology.

Thurston cellar hole and Giles Farm sites – Notice to be placed in the Eaton Town column asking for people to help in clearing these areas.

Invasive Species Monitoring – Meeting (other towns included) with DES specialist Amy Smagula at Eaton Town Hall Saturday, 7/17/10, 9:30 – 11:30 AM. Ken McKenzie will coordinate Crystal Lake volunteers.

Blueberry Field Maintenance - Ryan Bushnell plans to apply for a SARES grant by 10/10 to study control of little bluestem grass in the blueberry fields. Many options were discussed for keeping the fields down such as mowing, burning, volunteer work and grazing. Also discussed were possibilities for keeping the less productive areas of the fields from growing up to trees.

Road access and maintenance on Town lands.

7. OTHER BUSINESS A. Marnie presented a check for \$70 from sales of her books to go into the Land Acquisition Fund.

B. NH Fish and Game Dept. began work on the boat access site from Rt.153 onto Purity Lake.

Next meeting: May10, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler, secretary

# Eaton Conservation Commission

May 10, 2010

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 4/12/2010 meeting were unanimously accepted.

### 3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 1,968.10
Forest Management Fund	<u>10,898.38</u>
	\$12,866.48

It was unanimously voted to pay \$175 to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for the coming year's membership now that they have all current ECC members' addresses for their newsletter.

4.FOREST MANAGEMENT Paul shared Dan Stepanauskas's letter re: timber income projections. Dan will meet with the ECC at the June meeting, after meeting with Paul and Dick Fortin.

### 5.FOSS MOUNTAIN

A. Blueberry Management - There was discussion of a recent TV program on goats clearing large areas that might be relevant to the blueberry fields. Ryan Bushnell and Arthur Harvey have done a lot of mowing of their respective areas. Dick Fortin met with Larry Nash, Eaton Fire Warden and Bob Boyd of DRED who are interested in a possible controlled training burn on Foss in the fall. Dick Fortin to follow up.

B.Trail Maintenance On 5/1/10 Dick Fortin, Tom Head, David Condoulis, Marnie Cobbs and Suzanne Raiche did trail clearing on the Foss Mt. trail, clearing mainly organic matter (not much gravel) from the trail itself and water bars. Dick Fortin will meet with Jeb Talbot, trail contractor with USFS and Wonalancet Outdoor Club, on 6/17/10 at 4 PM at Foss to assess the best way to stabilize the trail. There was discussion of groups who might help with trail maintenance such as Boy Scouts. Dick Fortin has routed a new trailhead sign for the gate at the lower end of the trail - almost ready. He and Marnie have gone over rehabilitation of the kiosks. Tentative date for clearing of the Foss Mt. ridge toward the newly acquired Upper Saco Valley Land Trust property tentatively scheduled for 10/30/10 (rain date 10/31.) Marnie to post signs,

6.HISTORIC SITES AND VIEWS Tom and Dick Fortin cleared the Thurston cellar hole and Ralph Wilkewitz has offered to mow it annually. ECC will consider a controlled burn of Manson Hill in a couple of years.

7.DREDGE AND FILL It was unanimously approved to agree to a Minimum Impact Expedited application for pond dredging of the Murphys' pond near Stewart Rd.

8.SCHOLARSHIPS Scholarship requests for three children have been received. It was decided to give people one more month to request and Judy will then decide how much to allot to each from the \$1000 set aside.

Next meeting: June 14, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler, secretary

Eaton Conservation Commission  
August 9, 2010

The August meeting of the ECC was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present Marnie Cobbs, Paul Savchick, Tom Head, Rick Young, Dick Brisbois, Dick Fortin.

**Note change in the minutes:** the view clearing will take place on Foss on Oct. 23 and not Oct. 30 as stated in the minutes.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the July 5<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended, prepared by Paul Savchick. Secretary pro tempore.

**Blueberry Management:** A walk on Foss was scheduled for September 13; the ECC will meet at 4:45PM at the Eaton Town Hall.

**Forester and Management:** Dan Stepanauskas, Eaton Town Forester, attended the meeting to review past timbering activity and what is scheduled for the future. Sales that took place on Town land were highlighted to bring the commission up to speed. Dan emphasized that all but one of the six cuts he has conducted could be revisited for more cutting if need be. He prefers to manage in this sustainable manner and the Commission was in agreement. Some areas still show signs of the Ice Storm of 1998. Dan outlines six future sales that could take place from winter 2010 to 2018.

Discussed some of the concerns ECC has with the closing out of the older sales and the way the landings were left. Dan does not have the machinery to complete the work in a manner we would like. It was agreed the "Contract" in the future should be tighter with specifics on what condition the landing should be in before the logger pulls his equipment off site. In the future ECC will hire a separate contractor, logger. Or get volunteer help to prepare the seedbed and seed all log landings. Logging contracts will be submitted to the ECC for their review prior to being sent to the Selectmen. ECC suggested from this point on Dan require a Performance Bond to ensure the start date, landings are left according to specs., and any roads, such as the Willis Bean Rd., be raked upon completion of the logging operation.

Dan will review the parcel purchased from Bud Nelson and the parcel off Horse Leg Hill Rd., now owned by the Town. ECC agreed to pay Dan \$40/hr. Paul alerted Dan that at some point in time USVLT will gift the parcel on Foss to the Town. At that point the Commission will have to write a management plan.

**Work Session:** The Commission will conduct a work session at the Giles Homestead on Sat., September 18. Volunteers can meet at the Town Hall at 9 am for 2 – 3 hours of work.

**Donation Box:** Dick brisbois made a small wooden donation box and placed it in the Eaton Village Store. Donations are requested for any blueberries picked on Foss and to help pay the cost of keeping the view on the mountain open.

**Milfoil Sign:** Dick B. will place the State's milfoil sign at the South end of Conway Lake. Dick reported that 20 people attended the Invasive Weeds program presente by Amy Smagula of NH DES.

**Foss Kiosk:** All the kiosks have been upgraded and repaired on Foss.

Next meeting: September 13, 2010 at 7:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dick Fortin, Secretary pro tempore.

Eaton Conservation Commission  
September 13, 2010

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of 8/09/10 meeting unanimously approved.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT Dick Brisbois reported:

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 827.90
Forest Management Fund	<u>11,911.67</u>
	\$12,739.57

\$1000 was paid out for Tin Mountain scholarships which will be reimbursed by the Henney Trust; \$175 paid out for yearly dues to NHACC; \$34.49 collected from the Store collection box for the Conservation Fund.

4. FOSS MOUNTAIN Discussion re: how to reduce (most effectively and easiest to maintain) the encroaching brush around the perimeter of the blueberry fields tended by Arthur Harvey and Ryan Bushnell. Two possibilities: hire the brontosaurus, which cuts to the ground, for just along the perimeters, or a tractor with bush hog which takes brush down to 5"-6" stubble. Dick Fortin has been trying reach Bob Boyd of DRED to discuss a maintenance burn of the Foss blueberry fields – will keep trying. It has been suggested, from Division of Forests and Lands that we wait another year to burn so the chips from the brontosaurus will have longer to dry.

5. FOREST MANAGEMENT Dan Stepanauskas has marked trees in Unit #5 for a timber sale and accepted a bid fro Moose Mt. Logging to do the timbering. They will use the Tripp Farm landing just east of the second bridge on Willis Bean Rd. The ECC went over a sample contract. It was unanimously approved to accept this contract format, and delegate Paul to present the contract to Dan and Dan to the logger. Paul will then present this contract to Rick to review on behalf of the selectmen and amend as necessary prior to signing by selectmen. It is hoped this will expedite this whole process.

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6. ECC members will meet at Town Hall on 9/18 at 9:00 AM and go to the Giles Farm to do a maintenance brush clearing.

7.ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Unanimously reelected Chairman-Paul Savchick; Vice-Chair-Marnie Cobbs; Treasurer-Dick Brisbois; Secretary-Judy Fowler.

Next meeting: October 11, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler, secretary

# Eaton Conservation Commission

October 11, 2010

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

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 9/13/10 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT Dick Brisbois reported:

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 827.94
Forest Management Fund	11,912.24
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>90.47</u>
	\$12,830.65

Payment of a bill for \$800 from Dan Stepanauskas was unanimously approved.

4. FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Fall 2010 Burn of Blueberry Fields: Dick Fortin met with Bob Boyd of DRED who felt the blueberry fields would burn well, but in the area cut by the brontosaurus machine the brush and underlying cut material would still be too damp. Ryan Bushnell will stake out an area not to be burned that he wants to pick next summer. Bob Boyd felt local fire departments would see the burning as a good training opportunity and he would like a management plan for future burnings.

B. Volunteer Brush Clearing planned for Saturday, 10/23. Meet at Town Hall at 9:00 AM.

C. Bear hunters with dogs were recently seen on Foss where this is not allowed. Dick Brisbois will put up signs.

5. FOREST MANAGEMENT The latest contract, for Unit #5 timbering, is with the loggers now - no start date yet.

6. PROJECTS Giles Farm site worked on by Dick Fortin, Dick Brisbois, Marnie Cobs and Judy Fowler on 9/18. Due to logging in that area there was less brush than anticipated but some areas had deep rutting from logging vehicles. On Willis Bean Rd. the culvert between the two bridges needs a culvert. Paul will talk to the logging crew about this.

Next meeting: November 8, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler, secretary

**Eaton Conservation Commission**  
**November 8, 2010**

**I.** The November meeting of the ECC was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Dick Brisbois, Dick Fortin, Tom Head, Paul Savchick and Rick Young.

**II.** The October 11th minutes were not available.

**III.** Dick Brisbois reported the following balances in ECC accounts.

Eaton Land Acquisition Fund	\$ 69.47
Eaton Conservation Fund	827.97
Eaton Forest Management Fund	<u>11,912.70</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,810.14</b>

**IV.** Dick Fortin feels that the Foss Mountain controlled burn planned with Bob Boyd of the NH Division of Forests and Lands in cooperation with the Freedom and Center Conway fire departments is not likely to take place this year due to prior commitments by the Freedom Fire Department.

Dick reported that there was a good turnout for the volunteer brush clearing held on 10/23, accomplishing a substantial amount of trimming around the Brooks Pasture perimeter as well as work originally planned on the Foss Ridge.

**V.** Phil Trapasso volunteered his tractor and time with Dick Fortin to open a waterbar at the Foss Mountain trailhead and to bring the area under the gate back up to grade.

**VI.** Paul Savchick reported that Dan Stepanauskas informs us that the Unit 5 timber sale has been postponed to the summer of 2011 due to over scheduling of the Moose Mountain Logging crew.

Dan reports that the Unit 5 contract proposed by ECC is still under review by the logging company and seems acceptable to them. No detailed comments were made.

A brief discussion regarding responsibility for payment of the yield tax on timber harvested from Town lands seemed to conclude that it was not necessary for the ECC to pay the tax as it had voluntarily done at some point in the past. The policy originated in response to criticism that Town ownership of land removes it from the tax base.

**VII.** Paul Savchick will tour the Willis Bean Road and report on any necessary maintenance after discussing it with Stewart Heath. Of particular concern was a storm drainage crossing that seems to be washing out and may require a culvert.

**VIII.** Dick Fortin will accompany Linda Comeau (USVLT) to the LCHIP/McKenzie Tract funding interview in Concord on 11/15.

**IX.** Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Next meeting: December 13, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Savchick, Secretary pro tempore.

Eaton Conservation Commission  
December 13, 2010

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

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 11/8/2010 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT	Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 2,628.06
	Forest Management Fund	11,113.13
	Land Acquisition Fund	<u>79.47</u>
		\$13,820.66

From the Henney Fund \$1800, for last year and this year, was deposited to the Eaton Conservation Fund. Dan Stepanukas was paid \$800 from the Forest Management Fund.

4. FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Dick Fortin and Phil Trapasso worked on stabilizing the Foss Mt. Trail. Phil used his tractor to redo the ditch at the bottom of the trail, add a couple of water bars and regrade under the gate. There was discussion of possibly getting grants for trail work.

B. Dick Fortin is working on having Bob Boyd of DRED meet with the ECC re: a spring burn on Foss. C. Ryan Bushnell has been keeping his blueberry area mowed in Brooks Pasture.

5. LAND PROTECTION The Upper Saco valley land Trust has received an LCHIP grant of \$100,000 toward their purchase of the McKenzie tract on Foss Mt. A boundary survey will be done re: this funding.

6. FOREST MANAGEMENT Paul checked the Willis Bean Rd after the previous big rain and found it stable.

7. CAMP WAUKEELA Half of the silt fence by the lake across from camp along Brownfield Rd. has come undone. Paul will write to Phil Steele so it can be repaired.

8. PROJECTS The ECC would like to find someone to keep brush down at the Thurston cellar hole on Bush Rd.

Nest meeting: January 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler