

Eaton Conservation Commission
January 10, 2011

1.Meeting called to order at 7:10PM. Present: Rick Young, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Marnie Cobbs, Judy Fowler. As guests, Bob Boyd, Larry Nash and Ryan Bushnell.

2 ADMINISTRATION Minutes of 12/13/10 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT	Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 2,628.19
	Forest management Fund	11,113.66
	Donations	<u>79.47</u>
		\$ 13,821.32

"Land Acquisition Fund" changed to "Donations."

4.FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Re: Burning: Bob Boyd of DRED, Larry Nash, Eaton Fire Warden, and Ryan Bushnell, manager of some of the blueberry fields, were here to discuss planned burns on Foss. In the blueberries we want to burn the tops of the plants (increase productivity), not the roots (reduce productivity.) This means a fall burn would be best done after a hard frost, probably November. A spring burn would best done before the sap rises in the plants, while the ground is still cold and snow is still in the woods. A spring burn is preferred and the alternative would be a fall burn. Large brush from recent clearing ideally would be piled together and burned with snow on the ground. Many scenarios were discussed. Issues include short windows of opportunity in either season, access to Foss especially in the spring, how many areas to burn and whether the burn would include the recently cut area to the north of the path. Dividing the various areas into sections for regular ongoing scheduled burns would be ideal. The burn will include fire suppression training for the Center Conway and Freedom fire departments. The plan is for all parties to walk the areas in question in late spring/early summer to plan for a fall burn.

B. Blueberries Ryan Bushnell, blueberry grower in Brooks Pasture and to the south of the trail reported that he picked about 3100 pints of berries this summer. He will send the ECC their portion of the proceeds. As he is cultivating organically, he would like to try putting down sulfur to change the Ph that might help control the problematic little blue stem grass. There has been a study done on this and he will look into the results. He wondered about the ECC cost sharing with him to purchase sulfur as it is very expensive. No decision made

5.FOREST MANAGEMENT Dick Fortin talked to Dave Sorensen about possibly helping maintain the Thurston cellar hole on Bush Rd. No decision.

Next meeting: February 8, 2011 at Town Hall.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.
Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
February 14, 2011

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

2. ADMINISTRATION Correction to 1/10/11 minutes in "#4 Foss Mt", should read that a spring burn is preferred and the alternative would be a fall burn.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT Same as last month as the current statement had not arrived and no new deposits or withdrawals.

4. FOSS MOUNTAIN There was extensive discussion re: objectives of a burn on Foss. There are two possible objectives: burning to maintain Foss in an open state, especially the top of the mountain where the brontosaurus machine cut last year; and for blueberry management. Dick Fortin printed out, from NRCS maps, five possible management areas that could be burned in varying configurations and even for different objectives at different times. The current plan is for Rick, and Dick Fortin to meet, work out ECC burn management ideas, and then meet with Bob Boyd of DRED re: planning of an actual burn.

5. LAND PROTECTION The closing is tentatively scheduled on the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust property on Foss Mt. for 3/1/11 at which point Eaton will own it and will need to make a formal management plan for it.
Marnie offered to do research on the history of Foss Mt.

Next meeting: March 14, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
March 14, 2011

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 2/14/11 meeting were unanimously approved. Peter Klose was unanimously approved as an alternate.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT (for two months)

	<i>February, 2011</i>	<i>March, 2011</i>
Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 2,628.29	\$ 2,628.39
Forest Management Fund	11,114.09	11,114.52
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>79.47</u>	<u>92.02</u>
	\$13,821.85	\$13,834.93

Bank of America (holder of the Henney Fund) has notified the ECC that it will receive only \$784.62 this year as our portion of the interest.

4.LAND CONSERVATION The transfer of the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust property on Foss Mt. to the Town of Eaton took place 3/3/11. The next step is creating a stewardship plan, within the easement parameters of USVLT. Paul will contact Dan Stepanauskas about Dan's doing this. Marnie will contact USVLT re: parameters for the ECC to do a burn on that property. Doug Burnell will be marking boundaries around this property this spring.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN Bob Boyd of DRED is available to oversee the burn on Foss only the last week end in April. If conditions are right then Bob can call in fire departments to use it as a practice burn. Otherwise, there are enough Eaton fire wardens to do it and Rick and Dick Fortin have met with them about meeting at a moment's notice when conditions are right. Rick will show Dick Fortin and Marnie how to assess when ground conditions are right for burning. Top priority is for burning the area mowed by the brontosaurus machines.

6.FOREST MANAGEMENT Dan Stepanauskas has agreed to reestablish contact with the Unit #5 stumpage operator, keep regular contact with the ECC, and establish a firm harvest schedule. He will also explore additional management alternatives in early spring and write up a management plan for the USVLT easement area.

7.CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS Judy will begin working on this. We will wait to vote scholarship amounts until we know how many campers apply, especially as our funding is down this year.

8.OTHER BUSINESS Marnie noted that the USVLT would like to have a celebration this summer to highlight the cooperation between themselves and the Town of Eaton. Marnie will discuss this with them. There is always concern about the balance between

calling attention to Foss Mt. and maintaining its ecology and creating good conditions for the blueberry growers.

Next meeting: April 11, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
May 9, 2011

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the April meeting were unanimously approved with the amendment in section #VII to remove the last sentence.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 2,326.41
Forest Management Fund	11,115.48
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>92.02</u>
	\$13,533.91

Check to Dick Fortin for \$302. for drip torches for burning on Foss Mt.

4.FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Prescribed Burn – Bob Boyd said he cannot gather enough volunteers for a spring burn so the plan is now for a fall burn. He would like to see more brush cutting to add fuel for the burn. Dick Fortin will talk to Marnie re: organizing a day of brush cutting. Tom has mixed diesel fuel to donate for a fall burn.

B. Blueberries – Ryan Bushnell submitted details of 2010 blueberry harvest. He harvested 1930 pints, owing the Town \$1158. Town reimbursement to him for mowing of 4 acres is \$1200, so no income is due to the Town.

5.TROUT RESTORATION PROJECT The Expedited Permit application for this project on the Gurney property (Map R-11 Lot 10) was signed.

6. CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS There have been two requests for scholarships so far. Judy will check with a couple of previous recipients.

7.CAMP WAUKEELA The silt fence at the Waukeela beach along Rt. 153 has never held up in all the years it has been placed there and is again falling down. Probably stronger fence material is needed as well as some sort of backing such as hay bales. Peter will get information on heavier fencing. Paul will invite Phil Steele to an ECC meeting to discuss this situation.

Next meeting: June13, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
June 13, 2011

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 5/11/11 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 2,326.50
Forest Management Fund	11,115.91
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>106.47</u>
	\$ 13,548.88

4.FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Clearing - On 6/4/11 fourteen people cleared to the left of the trail and where the brontosaurus had cut, so there is a lot of fuel available for a fall burn. Ideally, a small group could clear more in the brontosaurus area over the summer.

B. Kiosks - Keeping the kiosks clean and readable has been a challenge due to weather and insects. It may be most practical to concentrate on the lowest one.

5.FOREST MAMAGEMENT Per Dan Stepanauskas, a harvest on Units 5 and 6 will begin in August.

6.CAMP WAUKEELA Paul sent a letter to Phil Steele 5/27/11 about the ongoing problem with the silt fence (including his 11/21/08 letter.)

7.LAND CONSERVATION Upper Saco Valley land Trust received an anonymous gift of 207 acres of land with a beaver bog off Paul Hill Rd., next to the previously donated Jenkins piece and McKenzie piece.

8.CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS It was suggested that parents receiving scholarships be liable for 25% of the cost of a camp session.

9.WEED WATCH PROGRAM It was agreed that volunteers would monitor during the first weeks of July and August and call Dick Fortin with results. The state has severely cut money for lake and river monitoring.

10.Rick reported that the selectmen gave permission for Forest Land Improvements to use the winter parking area on Foss Mt. Rd. to access a private timber cut.

Next meeting: July 11, 2011 at 7:00 PM.
Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.
Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
July 11, 2011

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Correction to the 6/13/11 minutes in #7 Land Conservation, in the last line, add "and McKenzie piece".

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Commission	\$ 2,326.61
Forest Management Fund	11,116.44
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>106.47</u>
	\$13,549.52

4.FOREST MANAGEMENT Dan Stepanauskas presented information on management of the Town forests. Moose Mountain logging will begin cutting in about three weeks on unit #5 & some on units #3, 4 and 6. Yield is anticipated to be approximately 200,000 board feet, bringing around \$15,000. Dan's goal is to have a good variety of tree species over the area of these cuts. A question was raised re: wood from Town forests being available to townspeople. This needs further investigation and Dick Fortin will gather information.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Blueberries – Arthur Harvey told Rick he had no blueberry crop last year due to early frost so he owes the Town nothing. He plans to mow half the grass in his area yearly.

B. Randolph Conservation Commission trail funds source – Marnie to follow up.

C. Marnie has gathered historical information for the kiosks, including 1860 and 1892 maps of Eaton from the Henney Room of the Conway Library.

6.LAND PROTECTION Upper Saco Valley Land Trust will do easement monitoring on the McKenzie tract on Foss Mt. in July or August and invite ECC members to accompany them.

7.CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS Monies have been allotted.

8.WEED WATCH Done in the first week of July.

9. USVLT CELEBRATION of the McKenzie tract on Foss Mt. will take place at the Eaton Beach Saturday, 8/6/11, 9:30- 10:30 AM. Judy will place notice in the Store and in the Eaton column.

Next Meeting: August 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
August 8, 2011

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

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

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 2,326.70
Forest Management Fund	11,116.87
Land Acquisition Donations	<u>106.47</u>
	\$13,550.04

4.FOREST MANAGEMENT A. No timbering has yet begun.

B. Re: Wood cut on Town lands, Dick Fortin spoke with Mike Cline of Tin Mt. Conservation Center where wood timbered from their lands was bought by some members with half the profits going to the logger and half to the organization. Paul will talk to Dan Stepanauskas and the loggers involved in both the TMCC and our cuts.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN Land clearing on Foss is set for October 22nd, 9 AM – noon. Dick Fortin said Bob Boyd is still planning a fall burn on Foss.

6.LAND PROTECTION The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust hosted a well-attended event at the Eaton Beach 8/6/22 to celebrate the purchase of the McKenzie property on Foss.

7.CAMP WAUKEELA Paul spoke with Phil Steel and Ralph Meade re: a "Triangular Silt Dyke," a new type of silt fence. It looks like it will be more effective than the ones previously used at the Waukeela beach next to the road. Phil said he will purchase this. It was unanimously voted that the Town not pay for this item.

8.OTHER BUSINESS A. Marnie spoke with Dan Stepanauskas about his leading an educational walk on Town lands. He is willing and a time will be arranged.

B. Dick Fortin, as an ECC member, was approached by Chris Kennedy whose son is looking for a Boy Scout project. Some possibilities were discussed and Dick will talk further with Chris.

C. Dick Bribois shared articles on blueberry growers and the NH Big Tree program.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
September 12, 2011

1.Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Dick Brisbos, Judy Fowler, Dick Fortin, Marnie Cobbs, Peter Klose and Chris Kennedy re: Boy Scout project.

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

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 1,602.77
Forest Management Fund	11,117.30
Land Acquisition Donations	<u>106.47</u>
	\$12,826.54

4.FOREST MANAGEMENT A. Timber harvesting has not yet begun.

B. Re: Firewood for Eaton Residents, Stubby Heath would deliver in town for \$200.00 per load (nine cords of unprocessed logs). Paul will discuss with Dan Stepanauskas and the logging crew.

C. Paul reported that Willis Bean Rd. held up well after Hurricane Irene.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN A. It has been agreed that for his Boy Scout Life Project Cameron Kennedy, along with some other scouts, will do stabilizing work, adding ¾" crushed gravel on the Foss Mt. trail. Plan is for this to occur Sunday, 9/18/11 between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

B. Paul reported that DRED through the N.H. Department of Trails has money (50/50 match, Megan Denute is contact)) for trail work with applications for 2011/2012 soon to be out. The funds originate with the Department of the Interior Land and Water Conservation Fund.

C. The gate into the blueberry fields between the Brooks Pasture path and the Foss Mt. trail is broken.

6.LAND PROTECTION Conservation Management Plan for the McKenzie tract is due. Dan Stepanauskas is working on this. Dick Fortin agreed to write up the blueberry management section for the approximately six acres of blueberry fields. ECC members discussed maintaining these six acres as open space by having organic pickers, which goes along with the Town's management of its other blueberry fields.

7.CAMP WUAKEELA The Triangular Silt Dyke has been ordered. Paul has offered to be present at installation.

8.OTHER BUSINESS A. Marnie will be in touch with the Randolph Conservation Commission re: their management of 10 acres of blueberries.

B. N.H. Method Wetlands survey website: nhmethod.org.

C. Further discussion needed of overall management plan for Foss Mt.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Town land walk with Dan Stepanauskas on 10/1.

Volunteer cutting on Foss: 10/22, 9 AM – noon.

Next meeting: October 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
October 10, 2011

1. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Dick Brisbois, Dick Fortin, Tom Head, Peter Klose and Marnie Cobbs

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes from September 12 meeting: Accepted unanimously with changes: under Foss Mt, change Maggie to Megan; Other Business - website is .org, not com.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$1,602.85
Forest Management Fund	11,117.83
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>208.10</u>
	\$12,928.78

4. FOREST MANAGEMENT Timber sale delayed due to wet weather. Stuart Heath gave Paul verbal permission to use White Farm landing.

5. FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Prescribed burn for this Wednesday October 12, 9am with the intent to start fire around 11am. Bob Boyd is writing a burn plan, and plans to burn area south of the hiking trail and up into new McKenzie piece. Freedom and Ctr. Conway will send volunteers to help. Dave Gerling, Dilver Chavarria, Michael Callais, David Condoulis, Dick Dole, Shane Gurney, Whit Whitman, Ryan Bushnell were all to be called by Dick Fortin. Peter Klose, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head and Marnie Cobbs all volunteered to help.

B. Blueberry Management Plan: Dick Fortin reported that how we would manage McKenzie piece evolved into documentation of how we manage our berry land. Headings were: Maintain open space, public picking, organic blueberries, income, fire and wildlife and livestock. Dick gave an historical perspective. No mention of group size limit.

C. Trail Funding Options: Co-op Extension Service. NH Fish & Game Wildlife program to support communities to manage wildlife habitat will be held 10/19/11 in Madison from 6:30-8:30pm. State funds might be available for a management plan. Dick B. and Peter hope to attend.

6. OTHER BUSINESS A. Dick Brisbois summarized walk with Dan on Oct 2, which included Peter and Marnie.

B. Dick B was planning to attend a Tin Mt EcoForum talk about desirable invasive species with Matt Tarr. He inquired to see if others were getting the NHCC newsletter.

C. This Sat, Oct 22, is Volunteer Cut Day.

D General discussion followed about mowing on Foss, and asking for donations to pay for this. Marnie agreed to contact Mark from Diesel Works in regards to his big Swiss flail mower.

Next meeting November 14, 2011 at 7:00pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes kept by Marnie Cobbs.

Eaton Conservation Commission
November 14, 2011

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

2.Minutes from 10/10/11 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 1,602.91
Forest Management Fund	11,118.26
Land Acquisition Donations	<u>208.10</u>
	\$ 12,929.27

There was a \$2000 donation towards brush clearing.

It was unanimously voted to pay Dan Stepanauskas \$1411.80 for his writing up the Forest Stewardship Plan for the McKenzie Tract.

Arthur Harvey sent a check for \$302.50 for 535 quarts of harvested blueberries (\$1.50 per quart minus a \$500 credit for mowing.)

4.FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Cameron Kennedy spoke about his Boy Scout Life Project upgrading the trail up Foss on 9/18/11. He and five other scouts worked for four hours cleaning traps, cleaning old water bars and adding a water bar with fill brought up to the trail by Dick Dole with his tractor. Cameron offered that they would like to do future work on the trail. Everyone expressed gratitude for all their hard work.

B. The prescribed burn 10/12/11 of five acres in the McKenzie tract blueberry fields went very well with a few hours of ideal conditions. There were 14 Eaton volunteers (including Ryan Bushnell) for whom this provided a good training opportunity. Bob Boyd of DRED advised and there were some state employees and representatives of the Center Conway and Freedom Fire departments. The burn equipment was gathered and is now stored at Larry Nash's. It is hoped to have another burn in the spring.

C. Volunteer Brush Cutting on 10/22/11 involved around 15 volunteers with a great deal of brush cut and some brush piles placed around the edges. It is hoped to do another cut in the spring.

D. The Forest Stewardship Plan done by Dan Stepanauskas was completed and copies of the plan were distributed to ECC members for discussion at the next meeting.

E. Marnie had contacted Mark Ford of Dieselworks re: his mowing (flail mower) on Foss. He charges \$100 per acre except for ledgy areas where he charges by the hour. There has been an anonymous \$2000 donation for this mowing and Marnie will contact Mark to take on this job.

G. PLANNING FOR FOSS MOUNTAIN There was extensive discussion on planning for the future of Foss including blueberry crops, wildlife habitat, recreational and aesthetic values, forestry and funding sources. This will remain ongoing.

5.COMMUNITIES TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE Dick F. reported on the recent

meeting about this joint effort between NH Fish and Game and Cooperative Extension. The program makes all their relevant resources available to towns to assist them in planning/implementing wildlife plans. It was somewhat vague and not clear whether financial resources would be available. There was discussion about taking advantage of this in planning for management of Foss Mt., all Town lands or the Town as a whole.

6.CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS It was unanimously voted to ratify the payment of \$724 to Tin Mt. Conservation Center for four children to attend four camps this past summer.

7.FOREST MANAGEMENT Moose Mt. Logging began timbering in units 3, 4, 5 & 6.

8.WETLANDS EVALUATION The "NH Method" 2010 revision is now available.

Next meeting December 12, 2011 at 7:00PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
December 12, 2011

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

2. ADMINISTRATION Correction made that there had been mention in the previous minutes of a \$2000 donation towards brush clearing. With this addition, the minutes of the 11/14/11 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 1,904.97
Forest Management Fund	11,118.69
Land Acquisition Donations	<u>208.10</u>
	\$13,231.76

4. FOREST MANAGEMENT A. The Forest Management Plan for the McKenzie tract was reviewed. Dick Fortin will take some GPS points over the aerial map with some landmarks and boundaries included.

B. Dan Stepanauskas shut down the current timbering operation as the ground has been too wet and there were problems with the lumber on the hemlocks. They did finish two units on either side of Willis Bean Rd. east of the White Farm. Moose Mt. Logging wants to finish with a cable skidder this winter. Due to past problems with closing out of timbering operations Paul will contact Dan and an ECC member will look the closing over. There was mention of possible tree pest threats from a recent column in the paper and Dan has been trying to keep our forest stands diverse to address this.

5. FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Dick Fortin will contact Tom Earle about the possibility of CSA interns working with Ryan Bushnell's blueberry operation on Foss.

B. Mark Forde mowed on Foss 12/3/11, cleaning up the burned area above the stone wall on the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust piece. This took 7 & 1/2 hours, 24 blades and cost \$750.

C. The gate along the road between the main path gate and Brooks Pasture is basically destroyed. The ECC will study the setting and look at various types of gates before installing a new one.

6. CAMP WAUKEELA The silt fence is buried too deeply and too close to the road so sand is pushed up against it. Paul will send a letter to Phil Steele regarding the incorrect installation and offering ECC services to right the situation.

Next meeting January 9, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler