

Eaton Conservation Commission

January 9, 2017

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

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

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 11,482.85
Forest Management Fund	40,351.10
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,685.76</u>
	\$59,519.71

Checks were written to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions for membership, to Horizon Forestry for brush cutting on Foss Mountain. A check came in for timbering for \$1069.89.

Stewart Heath presented his bill for \$4000 for rock removal on Foss.

4. BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Marnie is in contact with staff from Upper Saco Valley Land Trust re: management objectives for the McKenzie piece on Foss, especially in re: grass encroaching there.

Rick has spoken to Ryan Bushnell who is in accord with the selectmen's lease agreement and confirmed that he does have insurance.

Rick has been in contact with Tim Merrifield about the piece of land owned by his family where he has been cultivating blueberries.

Marnie has seen evidence of snowmobile activity on Foss even up through the parking lot. Plan is to keep an eye on this to ascertain whether it needs to be addressed by the ECC.

5. FOREST MANAGEMENT Timbering continues on the South Eaton lot. Dave Douglas says he plans to survey that lot.

Next meeting: February 13 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission  
March 13, 2017

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

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 1/9/17 meeting were unanimously approved. There was no meeting on 2/13/17 due to snow.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Eaton Conservation Fund	\$12,436.93	\$ 8,437.02
Forest Management fund	47,175.64	48,740.59
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,935.76</u>	<u>7,935.76</u>
	\$67,548.33	\$65,113.37

Paid out: \$4000 to Stewart Heath for rock popping on Foss Mt.  
Received: \$1500 from timbering on South Eaton lot.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Peter reported a successful annual meeting with a program on bobcats.

5. BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Selectmen are still awaiting Ryan Bushnell to sign the blueberry lease contract.

On the McKenzie piece there are brush piles to be burned.

Marnie will have sulfur to spread again in Brooks Pasture in the spring.

The price of blueberries is dropping overall in part to government subsidies from the Canadian government to growers there.

6. FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Snowmobiles have continued to go up on Foss. There are snowshoers and hikers there every week end and sometimes during the week.

7. FOREST MANAGEMENT Timbering on the South Eaton lot is temporarily stopped awaiting a hoped-for improvement in the pulp market.

8. OTHER It was agreed to again offer scholarships to Eaton children to attend Tin Mountain Conservation Center camps this coming summer. There will be \$775.33 available from the Henney Trust for this. The amount to be expended will be voted when we have information about how many children will be attending.

Next meeting: April 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission  
April 10, 2017

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Dave Sorensen, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head and Judy Fowler. Dave was welcomed as the new selectmen's representative to the Conservation Commission.

2. Minutes of the 3/13/17 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 8,437.09
Forest Management Fund	50,515.01
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,935.76</u>
	\$66,887.86

Dick reported a \$50 bill in the Foss Mountain donation box at the Store.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Dick Brisbois and Peter Klose have done lake monitoring at the southern end of Long Pond for three years and told GMCG staff they will no longer do so because of the amount of time required.

5. BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT There was discussion of the sulphur-spreading program in the blueberry fields which is continuing this spring. Having bees there was discussed and Dave noted that hay or straw bales can be placed around the fields and wild bumble bees will use them and overwinter in them. Using bumble bees in the blueberry fields had been discussed with Ryan Bushnell last spring but none were ever placed.

There was historical discussion of management of the blueberry fields. Priorities include: spring mowing by Mark Ford of Diesel Works, hole-filling where rocks were popped if deemed necessary and deciding on use of bees in the fields.

There was discussion of low prices for blueberries and blueberry workforces being cut in Maine.

6. FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL The trail will be monitored for erosion, ledge crossings and deadfalls. Kiosks will be updated.

7. FOREST MANAGEMENT We went over Dan Stepanauskas's 2016 – 2018 three year management schedule. He will alternate timbering sites to accommodate the pulp markets.

8. OTHER BUSINESS There was extensive general discussion on Conservation Commission's past and present projects in order to bring Dave Sorensen up-to-date.

Next Meeting: MAY 8, 2017 AT 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission

May 8, 2017

1. Meeting called to order at 7:10. Present were Paul Savchick, Dave Sorensen, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head and Judy Fowler.

2.AMINISTRATION Minutes of the 4/10/17 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 8,437.15
Forest Management Fund	50,515.40
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,991.34</u>
	\$66,943.89

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP No discussion until Peter Klose is here to report.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Ryan Bushnell has not yet signed the Blueberry Lease Agreement. Paul will email Rick Young about this.

Dates for sulfur spreading in Brooks pasture were discussed. Judy to research May dates and contact Commission members as well as others who may help with the spreading.

There was discussion about the ECC getting its own burner to use for management of the blueberry crop.

7.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL The trail will be monitored for erosion, ledge crossings and deadfalls. Kiosks will be updated.

8.FOREST MANAGEMENT Replacement of bridge planks on Willis Bean Road is planned for this summer. As this is a class VI road this is the responsibility of the ECC.

Timbering on the South Eaton lot will resume shortly with harvest mainly for the pulp market.

Next meeting: June12, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission  
June 12, 2017

1.Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Dave Sorensen, Peter Klose, Tom Head and Judy Fowler.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 5/8/17 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 8,437.21
Forest Management Fund	50,515.79
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,991.34</u>
	\$ 66,944.34

It was unanimously voted to ratify an extra expenditure for the scholarship funds for Eaton children to attend Tin Mountain Conservation Center camps.

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Peter said they are still working on their new building. Kristy Foster is now the Eaton representative to GMCG and will keep the ECC up to date.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Sulfur was spread on the Brooks Pasture fields and some of the north field on May 27 by Ele Border, Dick Brisbois, Holly Fortin, Judy Fowler, Tom Head, Peter Klose, Olivia Saunders of Cooperative Extension with Dick Dole bringing the ten 50 lb. Bags of sulfur up on his tractor. Some dead little blue stem grass was seen so it appears the sulfur is making a difference.

Adding loam, probably three to five yards, to the depressions from the rock popping was discussed. Dave will find out whether a Town truck can be used to deliver it. Paul suggested that the waste piles of sand, gravel and organic matter created from Shane Gurney's spring road grading could be trucked to Brooks Pasture and stockpiled for hole filling.

Ryan's contract is still to be signed.

6.FOREST MANAGEMENT Corrie Blodgett and Nate St. Saviour of Sap Hound Maple Company in Brownfield have asked about tapping trees in an area previously tapped on Town land. Paul will talk to Dan Stepanauskas, Town forester, about the area and any logging there and it can be discussed further.

7.NH DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU ISSUE Two wetland violations have been brought to the ECC's attention, one re: the Candace Maher property and the other for the Michael Callis property. Peter Klose will discuss this with Candace Maher and Paul will discuss the other issue initially with Dept. of Transportation as part of the issue is by Rt. 153.

Next meeting: July 10 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission  
July 10, 2017

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 6/12/17 meeting were unanimously accepted with the following amendment: In item #5 Blueberry Management re: hole filling, "Paul suggested that the waste piles of sand, gravel and organic matter created from Shane Gurney's spring road grading could be trucked to Brooks Pasture and stockpiled for hole filling."

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 8,437.29
Forest Management Fund	50,516.27
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,991.34</u>
	\$66,944.90

Dick reported that the check for the scholarships for Eaton children was sent to Tin Mountain Conservation Center.

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP We will ask Kristy Foster, Eaton's representative to the GMCG, if she can come to the next ECC meeting and bring us up to date on their activities.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Dave reported that the selectmen are allowing one Town truck load of loam to be delivered to Brooks pasture for hole filling. We discussed using tailings of gravel, brush and leaves from the spring road grading in the holes. Dave will bring this up at the next selectmen's meeting.

Olivia Saunders has suggested testing the soil pH in Brooks Pasture.

Ryan Bushnell has signed his contract for blueberry management but his insurance certificate is needed. Peter will talk with him.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL People have been walking around the boulders just above the end of the woods due to the steepness of the rocks there. Marnie will ask Dick Fortin to look into this issue.

7.FOREST MANAGEMENT Re: potential sugar maple tapping request, Dan Stepanauskas will look over that area and give his input on the feasibility. He will also give us an updated three-year plan on the Town forests.

Timbering has recommenced on the South Eaton Lot and possibly will be finished by August.

8.NH DES WETLANDS BUREAU VIOLATIONS Peter discussed the one issue with owner Candace Maher who will have a new driveway cut to avoid the wetlands area. A "Wetlands After the Fact" permit is needed and Peter will discuss this further with her.

Re: the issue on Michael Callis property, the logs in question were removed so no need to discuss with DOT as planned.

9.OTHER Elaine Hennigan presented a thank you note from her granddaughter Grace for the scholarship to one of the Tin Mountain Conservation Center camps.

People have noted extensive pine pollen and particulate matter in Crystal Lake this year. Marnie will call Kristy Foster re: input from GMCG. Possibly a sample could be sent to the limnologist in Concord.

The Conway Lake Conservation Association has concerns about people going over private land to moored boats along the Eaton shore of Conway Lake and also concerns about so many vehicles parked along that area of Potter Rd.

It is still hoped the ECC can someday purchase a burner for the blueberry fields.

Winter signage on Foss Mt. in the winter was discussed.

Next meeting: August 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission  
August 14, 2017

1.Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Dave Sorensen, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler. Michael Callis and Dick Fortin attended as guests.

2. Minutes of the 7/10/17 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation fund	\$ 7,207.35
Forest Management Fund	52,860.94
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,991.34</u>
	\$68,059.63

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Kristy Foster and Judy attended the presentation about aquifers on 8/1/17 given by Robert Newton of Smith College. Kristy sent a recap of the meeting. The importance of towns knowing their aquifer recharge areas was stressed.

5.NH WETLANDS BUREAU VIOLATIONS A. Michael Callis attended re: wetland issues on his land. It was clarified that his land had been surveyed by a soil scientist in the past and is not designated a wetland.

B. Candace Maher will have her driveway placed out of the wetland area and can then apply for an "after-the fact permit."

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL A.Dick Fortin discussed the issue of people walking in the blueberries along the steep area just above the end of the gravel trail with Jed Talbot of Off the Beaten Path. Jed explained that avoiding that area would have meant routing the trail differently, adding significant linear feet of trail at greater expense. It would take two people working one day to carve out more steps. It was decided to take no action at this time. Water bars need attention at the stone wall and this will be done in early spring and then again before leaves fall. Shane Gurney had noted water runoff from the cellar hole to the first Brooks Pasture opening after the July heavy rain. This will continue to be assessed.

B.Suggestions were made to place signage on the trail re: checking for ticks as they are so numerous this year. Also discussed was signage suggesting donations to the Land Acquisition Fund box at the Eaton Village Store or sent to Town Hall.

7.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT A. Shane Gurney will bring the material for hole filling in Brooks Pasture as previously discussed.

B. Horizon Forestry is available to brush cut this fall north and south of the old trail and on the MacKenzie piece.

C. Peter talked with Ryan who said his insurance agent will send proof of his insurance to the ECC. He has not picked the Town fields yet and Peter suggested he do so.

8.FOREST MANAGEMENT The timbering on the South Eaton lot is winding down. A bill from Dan Stepanauskas for \$440 was unanimously approved.



9.CRYSTAL LAKE Marnie reported that subsequent to testing of Crystal lake water due to cloudiness in it no significant algae turned up and phosphorus was low, similar to results from fifteen years ago, so it seems healthy. Dick, Peter and Frank Holmes have found no invasive species in the lake.

The "Under 10 Horsepower" sign at the boat ramp is missing and Lianne will reorder it. The sign about loons is marred and Dick will replace it.

Next meeting: September 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission  
September 11, 2017

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 8/14/17 meeting were unanimously approved.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation fund	\$ 7,207.42
Forest Management Fund	52,421.45
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,991.34</u>
	\$67,620.21

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Nothing new reported.

5.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Ryan Bushnell may be picking the Town fields now. We still have no verification of insurance for Ryan. The blueberry market is oversupplied so prices are down.

There are two piles of hole-filling material at Brooks Pasture.

Horizon Forestry – Marnie requested they cut brush south of the old trail and on the McKenzie piece in late October.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Arranging a trail maintenance day was discussed. Marnie will contact Dick Fortin on this. Dick and Peter will put up a new sign suggesting vigilance about ticks.

7.FOREST MANAGEMENT Paul shared Dan's synopsis of management accomplishments 5/2016 – July 2017 and Town Forest timber harvest schedule for 2017 – winter 2019. Paul will copy timbering maps for ECC members. Dan wants to do a guided walk on the South Eaton lot for ECC members.

Sap Hound Maple Sugar – Dan will look the sight they are interested in with owners.Nate StSavior and Corrie Blodgett.

8. NH WETLAND VIOLATION A driveway was built on the Maher property using gravel from the wetland there. This was discussed and a vote taken that this issue was remedied with Paul, Marnie, Judy, Dick, Peter and Tom voting in the affirmative and Dave abstaining.

9.ELECTION OF OFFICERS Officers are: Chairperson – Marnie Cobbs; Vice Chairperson – Tom Head; Treasurer – Dick Brisbois; Secretary – Judy Fowler. We thank Paul for his many years of chairing the ECC.

10.OTHER Dick put up a new sign re: loons at the Eaton Beach.

The possibility of having a "No Motorized Watercraft" policy was discussed and may be put forth at Town Meeting.

NH Dept of Environmental Services personnel recently did water sampling at Crystal Lake.

Marnie reported that the Conway Lake Conservation Association is investigating trespassing across private property to reach moored boats at the Eaton end of Conway Lake.

Next meeting: October 9, 2017 at 7:00 PM.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.  
Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission  
October 9, 2017

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

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes from the 9/11/17 were unanimously approved with a correction at the end of item # 10 to read: "Marnie reported that the Conway Lake Conservation Association is investigating trespassing across private property to reach moored boats at the Eaton end of Conway Lake."

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 7,207.48
Forest Management Fund	54,893.52
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>8,027.14</u>
	\$70,128.14

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Nothing new reported.

5.CRYSTAL LAKE NH Dept. of Environmental Services collected water quality samples from Crystal Lake 8/17/17 to update information for the NH part of the Clean Water Act. They requested any information available from Town hall.

6.BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Ryan Bushnell harvested 1400 pints of blueberries but in difficult fields (weeds and grass), and since the blueberry market is flooded the ECC agreed to his price of \$.50 per pint. Next year he will be expected to pay \$.75 per pint since he will be harvesting in Brooks Pasture, an easier field due to rock popping and less weeds.

There are five loads of road side fill at the Brooks Pasture landing ready for filling holes in the Brooks Pasture field. The filling will be done by volunteers after this fall's mowing/cutting by Horizon Forestry. Marnie to follow up.

Ryan still has not provided the ECC with his insurance certificate.

7.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL There is minor erosion at the top of the trail where it leaves the woods. Marnie and Dick Fortin will address this. Peter and Dick Brisbois will increase the number of yellow hash marks along the ledgy upper part of the trail to make it easier to find the trail on the way down from the top.

8.FOREST MANAGEMENT Corrie Blodgett and Nate St Saviour of Sap Hound Maple Company have asked about access to a different maple sugar site in the southeast corner of Eaton's Thurston and Bush Roads. Paul noted that the ECC needs to meet and approve this site. Peter and others will look into it and see what the maple trees there look like. Paul will email Corrie and Nate and, for now, offer them only the first site they had looked over at the Baldwin access from the Maine section of Thurston Rd.

Paul agreed to be the main contact with Dan Stepanauskas for Eaton's forestry work. Paul and Dan will look at a heavy growth of invasive European Buckthorn at the back entry to Sorensen's property off Old Portland and Bush Roads.

Next meeting: November 13, 2017 at 7:00 PM.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.  
Respectfully submitted by Peter Klose

Eaton Conservation Commission  
December 11, 2017

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Marnie Cobbs, Dave Sorensen, Paul Savchick, Dick Brisbois, Peter Klose, Judy Fowler and Paul Hennigan as guest.

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 10/9/17 meeting were unanimously approved. There was no November meeting.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>November, 2017</u>	<u>December 2017</u>
Eaton Conservation Fund	\$ 7,207.54	\$ 7,907.61
Forest Management Fund	54,893.94	56,561.91
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>8,027.14</u>	<u>8,027.14</u>
	\$70,128.62	\$72,496.66

A check for \$700 was deposited from Ryan Bushnell from blueberry sales.

It was unanimously approved to pay the NH Dept. of Environmental Services' bill for their 8/2/17 water testing of Crystal lake.

4. PAUL HENNIGAN Paul had requested to attend to address three issues.

A. He requested that all the Town boards meet together to discuss Town issues. He is addressing each of the boards about this.

B. He feels it is important for all Town board members to be alert to finding the law that allows any regulation to be created.

C. He was concerned about an item in the 9/11/17 minutes (# 10 "Other) that read: "*The possibility of having a "No Motorized Watercraft" policy was discussed and may be put forth at Town Meeting.*" He spoke of the history of how the "Under 10 Horsepower" rule for motorized boats on Crystal Lake came to be. It was clarified that the 9/11/17 item was discussion only and there are no plans to present anything at Town meeting.

He also noted, in regard to the ECC cancellation of the 10/9/17 meeting due to weather, that cancellations could cause hardship if someone needed a timely sign off on something by the ECC.

5. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Per Kristy Foster they are working on growing their membership. She has expressed an interest in looking into dry land invasive species.

6. CRYSTAL LAKE Marnie reported that Maria Gross of the Conway Lake Conservation Association has been researching ways to watch for invasive species and the ECC may benefit from her research.

7. BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT A. In October Horizon Forestry cleared south of the old Foss Mt. Trail, the McKenzie piece and up onto the ridge.

B. Peter will again ask Ryan Bushnell for his insurance certificate.

C. Mark and Nancy Watson, owners of Peddler's End, spread sulfur on their blueberry fields with an ATV and a broadcasting attachment. They are willing to share information and resources.

8. FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL On 10/14/17 Marnie and Dick Fortin worked on the new trail, re-creating the washed out portions.

9.FOREST MANAGEMENT A.On 12/3/17 Marnie, Tom Head, Tom Earle and Holly Fortin walked the South Eaton timber lot with Dan Stepanauskas. Overall the site looked good although Marnie felt the landing could be improved.

C.Dick Brisbois will again put up “No Bear Dog” signs.

10.NH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS A.It was unanimously voted to pay the NHACC dues of \$236 for the coming year.

B. Marnie attended the recent NHACC meeting/workshops and has information she can share.

11.OTHER A.There was discussion of the ECC addressing our charges/mission. Paul will send for the NHACC handbooks of state regulations for Conservation Commissions that include both RSA’s and interpretation.

B.Monthly Task List – There was some discussion of this and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Next meeting: 1/8/18.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.