

Eaton Conservation Commission

March 14, 2022

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00. Present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Heather McKendry, Holly Fortin, Dick Brisbois, Dick Fortin.

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the February 14, 2022 minutes approved as written.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund -	\$1950.57
Forest Management Fund -	\$69,109.85
Land Acquisition Fund -	\$15,580.70

TOTAL	\$86,641.12
Donation Box Income	\$23.85
Foss Mtn. Fund	\$2131.10

Motion passed to approve the Treasurer's report as read.

4. FOSS MANAGEMENT Marnie was contacted by USFS John Neely regarding a spring burn on Foss this year. He also suggested the ECC contact Ted Kendziora, US Fish and Wildlife and Rebecca DiGirolomo, UNH Cooperative Extension Forester. They are interested in planning prescribed burns on private properties and might be able to help with a long term strategy for the blueberry fields.

Ryan Bushnell needs to be contacted regarding his contract and proof of insurance. Marnie will touch base with him to set up a date in April. Marnie spoke to Olivia Saunders, UNH Cooperative Extension, for ideas about blueberry picker shortages. Everyone is experiencing the same problem. The suggestion was made to meet with the Watsons to see if they would be willing to share what they have learned from their frozen blueberry experiences.

ECC voted to wait until 2023 to hire a trail crew for needed improvements on the Foss Mountain trail. ECC volunteers will address the erosion issues on the lower section of the new trail this spring. It was brought to our attention that there are no blazes on the wooded section of the new trail and is difficult to follow in the winter. The ECC will address this concern this spring. Dick will make two small signs to guide folks around Brooks Pasture in the winter as well.

5. TOWN LANDS MANAGEMENT Heather McKendry will explore whether other towns have placed Conservation Easements on Town Lands.

Questions were raised as a result of the recent Cohort presentation as to the official designation of Town lands. Over the years Town meeting votes on Town land warrant articles did not always include the required language to legally establish a "Town Forest". Dick Fortin will explore this further.

6. COMMUNITY COHORT Marnie provided ECC with info on how to “Prepare A Conservation Plan” for review at our next meeting. She will share outlines the Cohorts produce at their March 27th meeting next month.

7. OTHER BUSINESS Marnie asked if the ECC would be willing to assist landowners financially with the cost of placing a Conservation Easement on their Eaton properties? ECC needs to determine if that is allowed?

Tin Mountain Scholarship – ECC voted to spend \$1000 on scholarships to assist Eaton students with the cost of attending Tin Mountain Summer Camp in 2022. Monies to come from the Henney Conservation Fund.

ECC reviewed the process of accepting donations for the Foss Mountain Fund. Any donation over \$250 needs to be documented and presented before the Select Board before it can be deposited in the bank.

Marnie brought to the board’s attention that someone is cutting out brush to make an old skidder trail more accessible to other vehicles on the Cummings lot across from the White place on the Willis Bean Road. ECC will have to monitor that. Marnie suggested ECC hire Stubby Heath to place rocks at the entrance to prevent vehicles other than snowmachines to access the skid trail.

Next meeting: April 11, 2022 at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Fortin