

Eaton Conservation Commission
April 11,2022

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm. Present were Marnie Cobbs, Holly Fortin, Heather McKendry, Tom Head, Dick Brisbois, Dick Fortin. Paul Nuccio, Nancy and Mark Watson were in attendance.

2. ADMINISTRATION – Minutes of the March 14 meeting approved as written.

Marnie informed Commission of the Joint Board Meeting May 16, 6 PM

3. TREASURER’S REPORT -

Conservation Fund	\$1,976.54
Forest Management Fund	\$69,110.44
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,580.83
Foss Mt. Fund	\$2,131.12
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$88,798.93</u>

Donation Box Income \$5.00

4. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Heather summarized her findings on Conservation Easements. Towns cannot hold a Conservation Easement on Town owned land. There must be a separate entity overseeing the Easements. Heather indicated that a Town vote to establish a Town Forest is not in perpetuity and a vote can decide to sell off that Town land. Easements could dictate what the land could be used for going forward in the event the Town sold it and could offer long-term protection. Voting to convert town owned land to a “Town Forest” places management of said parcel in the hands of the Commission and removes it from Selectmen’s management oversight.

Dick reviewed the response from NHMA regarding past votes at Town Meetings accepting gifts of land and whether the votes in fact established a “Town Forest”. NHMA suggested some housekeeping and a discussion with Town Council and Town auditor.

Marnie reviewed the Pay Pal protocol as per NHMA and NH Association of Conservation Commissions. There was discussion regarding a “Go Fund Me” site.

Marnie demonstrated the new ECC website that Dennis Sullivan created. Dagmar Von Schwerin has volunteered to maintain the ECC, Foss Mt. Web sites, and help process donations made on the web.

5. FOSS MANAGEMENT – What should the focus of the message in the 3rd Trail Kiosk was discussed.

Marnie will inform the Commission when a walk with John Neely (USFS), Ted Kendziora (US Fish and Wildlife), and Rebecca DiGirolomo (UNH Co-op Ext.) is scheduled to review the potential fire on Foss.

Nancy and Mark Watson made a presentation to the Commission regarding their commercial blueberry experiences at Peddler’s End on Foss Mountain. They reviewed the process for organic certification, soil testing, record keeping, raking, processing, freezing and distribution/sale of their crop, and mowing the fields. The Watsons were very clear that because of their investments in mechanization and purchase of equipment for burning etc. that they would not be seeing a profit for a very long time. Their hope is to double the amount of frozen blueberries they could sell in the 2022 season but they are

limited by the lack of pickers to assist them and freezer space. They prefer to visit a field to pick more frequently as the berries ripen rather than picking it clean on a designated day. They emphasized the importance of pollination with either honey bees or bumblebees and the short window when that takes place.

6. FOREST MANAGEMENT – Marnie would like to schedule a walk / meeting with Dan Stepanauskas to get a sense of future timber activity.

7. OTHER BUSINESS - Dick informed the Commission the Selectmen did not warm up to the idea of increasing the Land Use Change Tax to 100% for the ECC funds.

Mark Carbone requested purchasing a new Conductivity meter, this was tabled to next month.

Marnie would like to organize a field outing to review the Town land property corners in the Foss Mt. area. She will notify the Commission of the date.

Next meeting:

May 9, 2022 at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Fortin