

Eaton Conservation Commission

July 11, 2022

1. Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Heather McKendry, Holly Fortin, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head, Dick Fortin.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes for the June 13 meeting were approved as read.

3. **TREASURER’S REPORT** -

Conservation Fund	\$2060.00
Forest Management Fund	\$69,112.17
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,581.22
Foss Mt. Fund	\$2068.68

TOTAL	\$88,822.07
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Donation box at Kiosk	\$56.10
Website Donation Income	\$10.00

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report

Motion was made to pay the \$1000 invoice from Richard L. Heath for the Foss parking lot entrance and the \$22.41 invoice for new blueberry signs. Both items would be paid out from the Foss Mt. Fund. Marnie reminded the Commission of a required minimum balance of \$500 in that account.

4. **SELECTMEN’S REPORT** – Dick gave an update on recent parcels applying for Current use status. He reported on two ZBA applications for shore front properties on Hatch Pond. Request for Variances regarding the 125 foot setback to the water’s edge.

5. **PLANNING BOARD REPORT** - Planning Board meets after the ECC.

6. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** – Marnie introduced the idea of “table tents” containing information and requests for donations for Snow Village Inn and Eaton Village Store. The discussion focused on if these would generate more use of the mountain or whether it would be insignificant. Increase in use would be offset by the opportunity to raise funds with the included QR code. ECC decided to try “table tents” at Snow Village Inn and forego the EVS. It was decided to start with moving the donation box at the store and add a poster to generate interest and donations. Motion made to spend up to \$150 to print up the “table tents”. Dick Brisbois related an inquiry of installing a panoramic display at the summit of Foss to identify the surrounding peaks. Commission felt most people had phones with applications that did that and there was no need to set up such a display.

Ryan Bushnell, Marnie and Dick walked the fields assessing the blueberry crop. Ryan was surprised and pleased with the abundance of berries. It was decided some of the hardwood sprouts in Brooks Pasture could be cut in an attempt to knock them down even though there was a crop to be picked. This led to a discussion of how to cut these hardwood sprouts without damaging the blueberry crop. It was decided to follow a general fall brush cutting by horizon Forestry the next spring with repeated cuttings by volunteers. This is when the blueberry bushes are not producing berries.

No picking signs were installed as well as string to keep the general public out of Brooks Pasture. Some of the signs were removed and deposited at the parking lot?? They were put back in place the next day.

Heather suggested members check the QR code on the upper Kiosk on a regular basis to avoid someone placing a different code over the Commission's. This is the latest in scamming \$.

Marnie will organize another volunteer day in October with a priority of filling the holes in Brooks Pasture. Other work could be to brush cut the Giles cellar hole

Marnie reported on the walk with the UNH forester and the US Fish and Wildlife fire specialist. Working with these agencies would significantly increase the cost of the prescribe burn. We will continue exploring this. Our agreement with the US Forest Service expires in 2024.

ECC reviewed the new parking lot entrance and pointed out a couple issues. Dick will talk to Stubby Heath to resolve.

The wording for the lower Kiosk was reviewed and "Maximum group size no more than 15" was decided on. Commission discussed again the idea of commercial entities making money off Foss and not having to pay a user's fee. Motion was made to spend \$100 for a new Kiosk sign.

Yellow blazes need to be addressed on the summit and installed on the trail. Dick will take care of ASAP.

TOWN LANDS MANAGEMENT - Wes Smith from Horizon Engineering (formerly Thorne Surveys) has information regarding Town Lines and will forward what he has to Marnie.

Dick will check with Dan Stepanauskus regarding work on line between McBriens and Town.

COMMUNITY COHORTS – Dennis Sullivan will do his Natural Resource Inventory presentation on July 21st. A water related presentation is scheduled for September 22nd.

OTHER BUSINESS – ECC will hold off on sending letters to camps in the surrounding area until it can be established which camps actually frequent Foss Mt.

Next meeting:

August 8, 2022 at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Richard Fortin