

**Eaton Conservation Commission
October 10, 2022**

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Holly Fortin, Tom Head, Dick Brisbois, and Dick Fortin. Members of the public included John Border, Dagmar Schweran, and Tom Rose.

2. **ADMINISTRATION**- Minutes for the September 12 meeting were accepted as read.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT** -

Conservation Fund	\$6344.80
Forest Management Fund	\$69,113.91
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,581.61
Foss Mtn. Fund	\$1871.77

TOTAL	\$92,912.09
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Donation Box - EVS \$30 Trail Box \$69.30

Website Donation Income \$10,000 (\$5000 9/12/22, \$5000, 10/8/22)

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** - Winter grooming on the Willis Bean road will not take place this winter as both parties involved did not want to sign an agreement with the Town. The agreement would have placed the liability on the parties grooming rather than the Town.

5. **FOSS MANAGEMENT** - A. Horizon Forestry will complete the brush cutting prior to the Oct 22 work date. Their rates have gone up from \$175 / acre to \$215 / acre. An estimated 8 acres would be cut this year at a total cost of approximately \$1720. *Dick B. made the motion to hire Horizon and Dick F. seconded the motion all voted in favor of hiring Horizon Forestry.*

B. Marnie summarized a conference call that Dick and Marnie had with Ryan Bushnell. He asked that we not cut the North field as there should be another blueberry crop again this next summer. He was hoping to alternate between Brooks Pasture and the North field and abandon the South field and McKenzie pieces for picking. ECC suggested this might be an opportunity for another grower to be involved in picking those areas and Ryan agreed. An effort will be made to identify someone interested in the commercial crop in those areas.

6. **FOREST MANAGEMENT** – Dan contacted Marnie and indicated next year may be a seed year for white pine. If so he would like to have a small sale on a parcel that could respond to a cut with pine regeneration. Marnie will walk the area with him and get back to the ECC.

7. **COMMUNITY COHORT** - A. Dan Stepanauskas and Peter Haggerty will present at the next scheduled “Conservation Conversation” on Nov. 17, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, at the Eaton Town Hall. Marnie reviewed Dan’s outline for the evening.

B. Wendy Scribner, Carroll County's Extension Forester, wrote an article about Eaton's efforts to develop a Conservation Plan in a Cohort publication. Marnie proof read the article for the ECC.

C. ECC reviewed what volunteers could get started on in the initial steps of developing the Conservation Plan. It was decided that all the property lines would be walked and identified using GPS and an associated narrative would be written including condition of the blazes, stone walls and wire fences found, corners located and any work that needs to be done on any segment of the property lines. While conducting this survey any wildlife sightings, plant documentations or other natural history points of interest would be noted.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS** – A. Cyano-bacteria sign will stay up at Conway Lake as new information regarding exposure in the winter as well as the summer is possible.

B. ECC discussed Bob Craycraft's comments at the last Conversation Conversation. suggesting we continue monitoring the lakes for clarity using a Sechhi disk and look for contaminants using a Conductivity meter. Dick will contact Bob regarding purchasing a new meter as our current meter is not working. *Voted unanimously to begin inquiring about the purchase.*

C. Dick reviewed the Town Counsel's opinion regarding Town Forest designation. According to Attorney Loughman we have three official Town Forests. They include the Jackson Town Forest, the Bloise lot off Towle Hill Road, and the Henney parcel donated in 1986. As far as she could determine the other parcels were not officially voted on according to the pertinent RSAs and are Conservation Lands owned by the Town. ECC will discuss this further.

D. Marnie reviewed the Joint Board meeting that took place last month. This generated discussion regarding the State's Shoreland Water Quality Act and how it permitted accessory structures within the 50 foot zone adjacent to the water body.

E. Marnie explained how the ECC PayPal account was established and her efforts to get that corrected. This will probably take a while as they are slow to respond.

Next meeting:

November 14, 2022 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Fortin