

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 10, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Tom Head, Dick Fortin, Holly Fortin, Robin Nuccio, Heather McKendry, and Dick Brisbois. Also present were Dennis Sullivan, Dagmar von Schwerin, Enna Carbone, and alternates Paul Nuccio and Judy Fowler.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the March 13 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$6,146.71
Forest Management Fund	\$68,307.34
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,582.39
Foss Mountain Fund	\$11,877.10
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$101,913.54
Donation box at trailhead	\$0
Website Donation Income	\$0

Treasurer's report was approved. ECC voted to approve payment of \$239.53 for the new conductivity meter. ECC voted to move \$20,000 from Eaton Forest Management Fund to Eaton Conservation Fund. Bank of NH has agreed to increase the interest rate on ECC accounts to 1.8%

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** - Dick Fortin will continue to serve as the Selectmen's Representative on the ECC. An application for a May 20 wedding on Foss had been approved, however, the wedding party will need to be re-contacted to discuss the scheduled spring burn and trail work on Foss. The Selectmen recommend watching a "First Amendment" training video produced by the NH Municipal Association that discusses recommended approaches to these audits. Names were gathered of those interested in watching the training to share with the town administrator.

5. **PLANNING BOARD REPORT** – EPB Chair Dennis Sullivan presented a new building application for ECC to review as it is subject to both the Steep Slope Protection Overlay Zone and the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance. ECC discussed slope gradient, drainage issues and sightlines for the two proposed building sites. ECC will send a letter outlining concerns and recommendations to the PB for their meeting on the 12th.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT - Foss Trail Fundraising Committee - Heather produced a spreadsheet outlining multiple fundraising platforms. The committee will present a proposal to the Selectmen at their April 18 or May 2 meeting, and if approved, ECC will vote on it in May.

ECC is submitting an application to the Pequawket Foundation for \$2,500 to rebuild Foss trails. US Fish & Wildlife has secured funding for a burn on Foss to maintain habitat, in particular for the endangered Yellow-Banded Bumblebee. (note: ECC can apply to the State to conduct a study of Foss insect populations). ECC will contribute \$2,000.

Star Tree Wildfire Protection LLC will subcontract burning, within the month if weather allows. Trail and roads will be closed. If only certain areas can be burned, ECC recommends prioritizing Brooks Pasture and the Ridge out to the south end. If all of Foss can be burned, it may put all blueberries on the same rotation, but is worth getting the entire ridge done. ECC needs to clear the lines around the perimeter in preparation for the burn. Dick estimates 1-2 full work days with chain saw and back-pack leaf blowers. We will need volunteers for potentially Friday April 28 or the week after, depending on conditions and projected burn date.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Beith Griffith would like to attend the next ECC meeting to discuss the Grove.

An informal Tin Mountain Bird Survey Program was discussed for Foss - ECC consensus is that the less formal Option 2 is easier to implement and thus more suited to our conservation plan to get people engaged. *ECC voted to make up to a \$400 donation from the Henney Conservation Fund.*

Marnie and Dick will review the blueberry leases and have them ready to sign in early June. Holly will send a thank you card to John Border for his challenging job installing a nesting box on Porter Road mid-winter. Thanks to Dick Brisbois who built the house.

Next meeting: May 8, 2023 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully taken by Dagmar von Schwerin and submitted by Judy Fowler