

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 12, 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, Paul Nuccio and alternate Judy Fowler. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin and Enna Carbone.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the May 8 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT -

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|------------------------|-------------|
| Conservation Fund | \$25,949.38 |
| Forest Management Fund | \$48,385.96 |
| Land Acquisition Fund | \$15,607.73 |
| Foss Mountain Fund | \$11,896.41 |

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| TOTAL | <hr/> \$101,839.48 |
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|---------------------------|----------|
| Donation box at trailhead | \$137.00 |
| Website Donation Income | \$0 |

Treasurer's report was accepted.

Star Tree invoice for \$2,000.00 submitted, to be paid out of Foss Mountain Fund - voted and accepted.

Pequawket Fund Grant accepted by Selectmen - to be deposited into Foss Mountain Fund.

The agreed-upon donation of \$400 to Tin Mountain will be sent in and then reimbursed by the Henney Fund.

4. **SELECTMENS REPORT** - Logging begins accessed via Bean Road. Mariner Towers will complete a feasibility study regarding cell service for the Town of Eaton. The board had a range of questions and responses.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** - ECC discussed discrepancies in regulations regarding the allowable length of docks in NH lakes over 1,000 acres in size. In Eaton, our only such water body is Conway Lake. The Town of Conway allows 30' max and the Town of Eaton and NH State allow 40'

max. ECC passed a motion to advise the Planning Board to add language that standardizes the maximum dock length in Conway Lake (or lakes over 1,000 acres) to match the 30' max extension allowed by the Town of Conway.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT - Marnie reported on the prescribed burn at Foss with Ted Kendziora and John Neely of USFWS and Star Tree. 70 acres were successfully burned, leaving soil and life within undamaged. A burn with USFWS every 3-5 years would be ideal.

Although rough re-grading completed by Dick and Holly, Tom Rose, Hunter Matthews and Marnie has helped restore the trail, the repairs will not survive future rain events. As a full rebuilding of the trail seemed out of scale in terms of cost, a revised proposal of \$6,100 was submitted by Ryan Harvey to regrade the existing trail bed and add numerous water bars that will be maintained by volunteers. Proposal includes labor with volunteers (including Dick Fortin and Tom Rose) bringing materials to the crew via tractor. Reconstruction is scheduled for the week of July 10-14th with rain dates for July 17-21. Stubby Heath submitted a proposal to regrade, ditch and add water bars to the access road from the cellar hole to the parking lot for \$2,000. Total for trail work will be approximately \$9,000. The trail will need to be closed during construction. ECC will advertise, investigate All Trails alerts, prepare signage and tape off access points as well as gathering volunteers to help keep people from hiking up to Foss during that time.

Stripe can now process donations through the existing QR code and will be connected to a fundraising platform. The campaign for trail repair and overall maintenance will begin as quickly as possible, targeting a total of \$15,000 in funds beyond the \$2,500 granted by the Pequawket Fund. The campaign was approved by the Select Board. ECC voted to proceed.

The Foss website Home page will be updated to showcase the fundraiser, the Pequawket grant, and current notices including the planned closure of the trail in July. The notice about trail safety will remain for legal reasons.

Marnie and Dick will reach out to Ryan about blueberries that survived the burn to see if he would like to sign a lease contract for this year.

Marnie attended a workshop run by the NH Recreational Trails Program. This is a well-run and also highly demanding grant requiring that someone

be dedicated to obtaining and then managing the grant. The ECC should consider applying for this grant for future large-scale projects.

Marnie shared a letter to local camps regarding the use of Foss for large groups, mentioning the state of the trails and the fundraiser as well as construction closure dates.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Paul has been walking the town land boundaries.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - Marnie walked with Dan Stepanauskas on May 29. Best TSI location would be 12 acres past Heath's towards Maine on the right in the direction of Maine. Dan recommends large stones to block vehicles from the road opposite the White place. If legal issues can be resolved, a gate could control traffic from the Maine line to Willis Bean Road intersection with Foss Mt Rd during off seasons, to prevent ongoing severe damage to the road.

9. COMMUNITY COHORT - no issues

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

ECC will not renew the Farmland Finder ad this year due.

Dick will trim trees regrowing over the blueberries in Brooks and other leased fields at the end of June.

Paul will remove graffiti at Long Pond - he is also testing the water regularly and will coordinate with water testing being done by Enna and her father.

Dick talked to Camp Waukeela's Abby Sparks and Peter Cooperdock, a NH wetland scientist, about restoration of the beach across from the camp. The May 1 storm shifted the beach sand to the shoreline of Crystal lake. Waukeela will have to consult with DES to determine the appropriate way of retrieving the sand and if a permit is required.

Robin will write thank you notes to Volunteers who helped close the road on the day of the burn.

ECC discussed having volunteers spend time on Foss letting people know about ECC efforts - a small card to hand out could encourage donations.

Marnie will be meeting a Tin Mountain representative for a bird walk on Tuesday 6/13 - this will take place once a month. Anyone can join in.

Next meeting:

July 10, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm

Respectfully taken by Dagmar von Schwerin, submitted by Judy Fowler