

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 14 2023

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

The ECC paid Dick Brisbois a visit with a card to thank him for his years of service before the meeting began.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – *Minutes of the July 10 meeting were accepted.*

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$24,666.13
Forest Management Fund	\$48,480.71
Land Acquisition Fund	\$15,654.45
Foss Mountain Fund	<u>\$16,158.15</u>
TOTAL	\$104,959.44
Donation box at trailhead	\$180.51
Stripe (Fundly & Website after fees)	\$2,695.78
Checks (fundraiser)	\$7,507.00
Grants (fundraiser)	\$2,750.00
Cheese Louise (fundraiser)	<u>\$715.00</u>
TOTAL FUNDRAISER	\$12,702.78

Three invoices were submitted and approved by ECC:

- Ryan Harvey labor for additional work on trail	\$260.00
- Town of Eaton crew & compactor	\$1,332.94
- Stubby Heath materials and skid steer	\$1,400

ECC approved repairs to Willis Bean Road by remote vote after the 7/15 site visit and voted at the meeting to approve up to \$2,000.00.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. SELECTMEN'S REPORT - The Town established a Capital Improvement Committee to review upcoming major projects and operational costs. Peter Klose, Planning Board Member, researched the possibility of utilizing the ECC Forest Management Fund to pay for some expenses.

ECC will develop a budget and timeline of projected ECC expenses in order to assess needs for ECC's future projects and operational costs. The ECC has historically been self-sufficient - depleting current funds could mean that ECC will need to request funding from the Town in the future.

ECC will review which lands are designated Town Land versus Town Forest in order to clarify applicability of strictures in the New Hampshire legal statutes related to fund expenditures. A Town vote can change the funding purpose of any fund, and can also classify or declassify Town Forest designations. What are drawbacks to naming Town Forests, if any?

Dick talked to Barbara Richter of NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions and will contact town counsel regarding the potential need to have a Town vote on any expenditures from the Forest Management Fund.

ECC discussed whether someone from the ECC should be on the Capital Improvement Committee in order to weigh in on overall spending.

5. PLANNING BOARD - Discussion of Perrie property building plans was continued to August 16 to give owner time to consider providing plans to abutter Ken Cargill and the board time to consult with town counsel about whether such plans are required.

Concerns from Conway Lake owners about the sizeable forestry cut on a ridge off Bean Road were discussed. Eaton's current Ridgeline Protection Ordinance does not cover that viewshed. ECC voted to recommend that the Planning Board add language to the ordinance related to ridgeline building projects (this would not impact forestry cuts) visible from Conway Lake.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT - The fundraiser is very close to reaching its goal of \$15,000. A group of ECC members will get together to send thank you letters to all donors.

The trail repairs are holding up but need remedial work after major rainfalls. Dick had to bring fill back onto the trail again. Dick, Paul and other

volunteers will meet August 19 to top dress dips in the area by the cellar hole with remaining gravel. There is also a pile of fill near the top of the hill for Cheese Louise volunteers when they are available.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT - no issues

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT - see Selectmen's Report above

9. COMMUNITY COHORT - Harry Vogel of the Loon Preservation Committee would be a good speaker for a future presentation.

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Enna is conducting water testing once per month for ECC and the Green Mountain Conservation Commission at the outlet at Long Pond, Crystal Lake beach and a site along the road at Crystal Lake. All results were in the satisfactory range, with phosphorus staying steady. Conductivity is being watched. Testing for bacteria is mandatory for swimming beaches. Paul Nuccio will get training for more in depth water testing of Long Pond in future, and will coordinate with Bob Craycraft, Mark and Enna Carbone and Dick Fortin.

Concrete fish steps on Snow Brook washed away. Dick will contact John Magee, fish biologist, NH Fish and Game.

Conway Lake Conservation Association will clarify language related to the 100-foot lakefront shoreline setback and wetlands restrictions. Loopholes are allowing portions of properties to cut directly to the lake. The lack of follow-up for compliance is a problem. Eaton' restrictions are enforced by the Select Board and building code, health and safety issues are reviewed for compliance by our building inspector. DES does not provide assessments of potential violations, responding only after formal complaints are filed, which happens mostly after the fact.

Conway Lake had 3,300 boats launched so far this year, with many kayaks and canoes, including by companies when the Saco River was too high. No invasive plant introductions were detected and only non-toxic Cyanobacteria. Conway Lake level will be lowered by 4 feet to work on the dam, October 10. There is definitely more plant growth along the shores of both Conway and Crystal Lakes.

Ryan Bushnell was unable to pick blueberries this year. ECC will continue looking for pickers/managers.

ECC approved up to \$5,000 to hire Horizon Forestry to cut approximately 21 acres on Foss, including 6.5 on the ridge that wasn't burned this spring and all fields south of the old trail. Last year's cost was \$214 per acre.

Christy Foster will make a knotweed presentation to the ECC.

Cliff Cabral will dive to check Crystal Lake for aquatic invasives - estimated cost \$300 - \$400

An old tire left at Foss needs to be brought to the dump.

Next meeting:

September 11, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, volunteer.