

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 13, 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, Dennis Sullivan, Enna Carbone and Kristie Foster Carbone.

2. ADMINISTRATION – *Minutes of the October 9 meeting were accepted.*

ECC voted on Board Members. Marnie Cobbs continues as Chair. Paul Nuccio will be the new Vice Chair. Robin Nuccio continues as Treasurer. The Secretary position remains unfilled, however the ECC accepts the taking of the Minutes by Dagmar von Schwerin, Volunteer, in the meantime. Heather McKendry will step down from the Board for a time. ECC will try to recruit another one or two members.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

\$50,000 was transferred into CD's to gain more interest earnings of approx. 4.97%

Conservation Fund	\$24,777.58 (- \$10,000 = \$14,777.58)
Forest Management Fund	\$48,059.39 (- \$30,000 = \$18,059.39)
Land Conservation Fund	\$15,725.19 (- \$10,000 = \$5,725.19)
Foss Mountain Fund	\$18,004.70
 TOTAL	 \$106,566.86
 Donation box at trailhead	 \$38.00
Eaton Village Store	\$27.75
Website Donation Income	\$0

Horizon Forestry bill for \$2,730.00 (\$195/acre) - submitted for payment from Foss Mtn Fund
Registration for Marnie for NHACC - \$60.00 – submitted for payment out of Conservation Fund
ECC voted in favor of payment of both

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. SELECTMEN'S REPORT – One of the conditions of the Dredge and Fill permit issued in 2003 to Waukeela Camp was to set up a silt fence to retain beach sand, however indefinite compliance was not mandatory. Since plows took out the silt fence again this year, it has not been reinstalled. When Waukeela next submits a beach replenishment request, the Selectmen will make a stipulation that the silt fence be reinstalled and suggest that Waukeela make more of an effort to delineate the silt fence with high stakes so the State plow does not damage it over the course of the winter. The more sand is washed into the lake, the more plants grow in the shallows, reducing beach size over time.

Highway crew dismantled a beaver dam on Potter Road near the second bridge. Statutes allow dams that encroach on a road or bridge to be dismantled as long as the equipment does not enter the water or wetlands.

5. PLANNING BOARD – The Board voted to postpone work on the new Wetlands Ordinance amendment to allow more time for review and feedback from ECC, the Select Board and the public tied in with Master Plan outreach. Small changes were made to the Zoning Ordinance based on discussion at the Joint Meeting of Land Use Boards in October. PB is researching ECC request to limit dock length to 30 feet. The PB did not approve expansion of the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance to include views from Conway Lake.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT – Horizon Forestry crew cut Foss Mountain in October. Foss Mountain trail water bars are functioning well. Holly and Marnie will reprint text in second kiosk that faded out.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT – “No Bear Dogs” signs were installed on Willis Bean Road and some water bars were fixed. Hard copies of Paul’s narratives for walking town lines with coordinates will be kept in files. Digital copies can also be stored on the ECC google docs page.

Kristie Foster Carbone presented a proposal to create a subcommittee focused on identifying and controlling invasive plant species. Kristie has started mapping Knotweed in particular in the EDD Maps Pro app. Information can be brought into the NRI and planning could help identify the sites that will be most advantageous to treat. Kristie has been talking with Stubby about how to reduce transmission of invasives with equipment, and it was suggested that she contact Dan Stepanauskas who has also been tracking invasives including Glossy Buckthorn. Dagmar volunteered to help with identification process, and others may be recruited at the planned Conservation Conversation presentation. Eaton is at the head of the watershed so any successes will help keep invasives from traveling downstream to other communities.

Paul discussed UNH's Wetlands Certificate Program, which is the first step in a longer process to become a full Wetlands Delineator, requiring further study and apprenticeships. Classes do not start until Spring 2024. Cost for this first step would be approx. \$2,000. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a member of the ECC become knowledgeable about Wetlands issues. ECC will discuss the possibility of supporting some or all of the cost when the class schedule becomes clear.

Paul will begin testing Long Pond and Thurston Pond, coordinating with Enna and Mark Carbone to compile results from the sites they have been monitoring. ECC has not paid UNH for general testing of samples in the past, but if they do require payment now, ECC voted to approve payment of such costs. The Town pays for Coliform tests for Crystal Lake Beach.

Cliff Cabral has checked Crystal Lake.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT – 21 Acres off Ben Road in South Eaton have been taken for unpaid taxes by the Town of Eaton. ECC voted to recommend it be designated Town Forest as it is adjacent to and connecting other Town Forest land. The Selectmen will discuss this transfer. It will require a Warrant Article and a vote at Town Meeting.

Attorney Loughman will look at Deeds submitted by Dick F. and write a formal opinion on Deed vs Conservation Easement language taking precedence. Dick F. will write up a Warrant Article on Town Forest versus Conservation Easement clarifications for ECC review prior to submittal to the Selectmen. The Deeds should be included in the NRI for reference.

9. COMMUNITY COHORT – Dennis talked to Marc Jacobs, presenter at the NHACC conference, about conducting a Conservation Conversation on Wetlands in February.

Dennis discussed a potential Conservation Conversation on Invasive Species with Wendy Scribner. Doug Cygan, NHDA Invasive Species Coordinator, led a recent tour of invasive species for the USVLT and also offered to make presentations. Kristie Foster Carbone, who will be heading a new ECC subcommittee on Invasive plants could attend to encourage interest and participation from Eaton residents.

Dennis will restart work on Conservation Planning for Eaton. Marnie will bring the rough outline developed after the Community Cohort to the next meeting to discuss next steps.

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Marnie Cobbs, Dennis Sullivan and Dagmar von Schwerin attended the annual NHACC Conference last weekend and reviewed the sessions they attended.

Dennis: 1) “The Global Stake of Climate & Clean Energy”. perspectives on the state of global climate negotiations, what to expect as world leaders gather in Dubai for COP, how actions are shifting to bottom-up planning, with more support for local efforts. 2) “Case Studies in Wetland Zoning” by Marc Jacobs (Dagmar also attended) – outlining the process with case studies for writing up Wetlands Ordinances. 3) “Use Your NRIs” – confirmed the importance of creating an NRI. Dennis will change color codes for soil maps to highlight hydric soils, making it easier to quickly identify potential problem areas.

Marnie: Brought NHACC’s financial info for review as ECC does contribute annually to NHACC. Keynote Speech “Journey to the Swamp” by David Carroll – on his love of wetlands and turtles with inspirational “call to arms” for Conservation Commissions as the army to defend habitats. 1) “Living with Beavers” with NH Fish & Game and Beaver Deceivers – how to improve habitat while finding creative ways to control beaver activity. Towns need to provide more help and guidelines. Some trail development including Rail Trails could cause problems as they are exempt from State laws requiring a wetland permit and they go directly into sensitive beaver and turtle habitat - Hot topic along with uninformed beaver management. 2) “Health Impact of Climate Change” with two physicians representing the NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action – discussed the basics of climate science and how climate change impacts health, discussing particulate matter and how it affects the body. Lots of interesting stats. 3) “Community Scale Solar & Conservation” (also attended by Dagmar) presented by Revision, a company ranked second to Patagonia in terms of environmental awareness – presented case studies in community solar projects and how they are developed and maintained. There was some discussion with attendees about cost/benefit ratios related to the size and locations of some of the planned solar array developments.

Dagmar: “Protecting the Little Big Forest” – Geoff Jones, Stoddard Conservation Commission – how an inexperienced conservation commission was able to save key 41 acre waterfront site on Pioneer Lake from development. Inspirational and useful information about fundraising (Zeffy), engaging the community and the importance of grit. Suggestion to use Annual Report to inform public about successes and plans. Communication is key.

Next meeting: December 11, 2023 at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, volunteer