

EATON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 15, 2024

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Marnie Cobbs, Dick Fortin, Paul Nuccio, Robin Nuccio, Holly Fortin and Tom Head. Also present were Dagmar von Schwerin, Kurt Willson and Dennis Sullivan.

2. **ADMINISTRATION** – Minutes of the March 11 meeting were accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Conservation Fund	\$15,850.99	CD \$10,205.92	
Foss Mountain Fund	\$16,311.94		
Forest Management Fund	\$18,192.63	CD \$30,617.92	
Land Conservation Fund	\$ 9,406.44	CD \$10,205.92	
TOTAL	\$59,762.05	CD \$51,029.61	\$110,791.66
Donation box at trailhead	\$00.00		
Website Donation Income	\$0		

The ECC voted to pay NHACC 2024 dues of \$250 from the Conservation Fund.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. **SELECTMEN'S REPORT** – There will be a public hearing on Wednesday, April 17th to discuss cutting of trees on Potter and Foss Mountain Roads tagged by Stubby Heath and the electric utility company.

The Selectmen declined to submit a Dredge and Fill Permit for removal of woody material from Snow Brook along Potter Road as that is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. The Town will consult with NRCS for their opinion. NRCS recommendations in the past have involved adding natural barriers to brooks and adding plantings to stabilize shorelines. The Selectmen will use this opportunity to work with the landowners to ensure they understand the reasons for chosen approaches.

Blue Sky Tower discussed the potential placement of a cell tower on Towle Hill, indicating that a 3-mile circumference around the tower might gain cell coverage. Since the topography is not flat, this estimate is optimistic, and the public should be made aware that one cell tower will not guarantee resolution of all issues. Income would be \$1,000/month with additional % payment from any parties adding their equipment to the tower. Dan Stepanauskas, Town Forester, would like to be involved in discussions about the access road to ensure that any future logging would not be compromised. Johnny Edge is also discussing placement of a cell tower on his land.

5. **PLANNING BOARD** – Since the last Master Plan in 2015, new ordinances such as steep slopes restrictions, ridgeline protection and home business allowances have been enacted. In the questionnaire being developed, the PB will ask residents how they feel about these new

ordinances – the Town often only hears from people who are unhappy and it will be important to know what residents overall feel about them. The questionnaire will also ask what residents would like to see enacted in the upcoming decade such as wetland protections, lighting ordinances, cell coverage, etc. A joint meeting of the PB and ECC will be held in June to discuss Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) as pertains to the questionnaire and input to the Town Master Plan.

6. FOSS MANAGEMENT – the ECC discussed and approved payment up to \$1,000 for work on the Foss Trail by Ryan Harvey.

Ryan Bushnell will pick blueberries this year but has trouble finding people to pick. Members of ECC have volunteered to help and hopefully other workers will be found to pick during two weeks in August (\$15-\$20/hour if experienced/good with rakes).

Marnie updated the Foss website regarding the opening of the road to Foss in 2-3 weeks. Dick will discuss installing a temporary "Road Closed" sign with the other Selectmen.

7. TOWN LAND MANAGEMENT – The next Conservation Conversation on "Invasive Species" will be led by Wendy Scribner, Carroll County Forester, to be held on Thursday, May 23 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM at Eaton Town Hall. There will also be a field trip to study invasives.

Dennis presented the new Town Lands section of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) including Town Land boundaries, Dan Stepanauskas' forestry maps, Sewall Study maps, Foss blueberry fields and a map of Town lands and their history. Dennis will write a report on the status of Town boundaries. The NRI group will prepare a final report of their findings at their next meeting and present it at the May ECC meeting.

Eaton Master Plan Comments - The group reviewed the Recreation section of the 2015 Master Plan. Edits were suggested and Marnie, Robin and Dagmar will collate comments into a new draft to be sent to the ECC members for comments and review at the May meeting. The Natural Resources and Land Use sections will also be discussed at the next meeting. The Conway Planning Board is working on their master plan and it would be a good idea to coordinate with the Conway Lake Conservation Association as well.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT – Dan Stepanauskas is working on "assisted migration", planting desirable trees in specific locations for Tin Mountain via grant funding. Dan was asking about the timeline for repairing the end of Willis Bean Road in Maine re: future logging operations.

9. WATER MANAGEMENT – Paul Nuccio will take UNH extension courses in June and October as part of his certification in Wetlands management. Paul has contacted Bob Craycraft and Mark Carbone and will begin water testing on Long Pond.

10. OTHER BUSINESS –

Dick Fortin attended an NRCS workshop discussing their initiatives in Carroll County. Dick discussed the fact that the NRCS does not adequately support municipalities with grant funding. Sharing costs would go a long way to resolving long-standing problems that are too expensive for small towns to deal with.

The NH Lakes Conference is taking place on June 6 and may be available to Zoom at attendees' convenience. All ECC members are encouraged to participate.

Robin as Town Clerk received a Dredge and Fill Permit by Notification for a beach replenishment on Conway Lake. The ECC has the option of signing the permit or not. Signing it will speed up the review process by the Wetlands Bureau in Concord. Paperwork was reviewed and signed by Marnie on behalf of the ECC.

Next meeting: May 13, 2024 at 6 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dagmar von Schwerin, Recording Secretary