

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine (arrived at 7:10 p.m.) and Alternate Matt Rivers

**Also Present:** Special Guest and former BCC member Ron Beaudoin

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2.0 Minutes Review of June 6, 2022 Regular Meeting**

The commission agreed to postpone the approval of the June 6, 2022, minutes until the August meeting.

**3.0 Public Comment:** None

**4.0 Financial Report**

The accounting report from the Finance Department has not been audited. No material discrepancies are expected.

**4.1 New Accounts-England Hardware and Phoenix Environmental Laboratory**

P. Van Dine noted that the BCC can purchase items at England Hardware and have testing done at Phoenix Environmental Laboratory by using the town account and submitting a receipt to the town specifying the BCC account that the funds should be taken from.

R. Parlee proposes that four cans of spray paint (white, black, grey and brown) be purchased at England Hardware for a work party this Saturday at a cost not to exceed \$40.00. P. Van Dine made a motion to make the above purchase using the town's account at a cost not to exceed \$40.00. The purchase will be paid for using funds from the Conservation Activity Fund. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**4.2 Office Supplies**

At the June meeting, it was the understanding that Hedges & Hedges would charge up to \$50.00 to print three collage posters from the 2022 photo contest. B. Cataldo said that Hedges & Hedges printed the three posters (13"x19" each) at no charge. One can be displayed at the library, one at Town Hall and one can be used on a trifold for a display table. Upon P. Van Dine's suggestion, R. Parlee will send a thank you note to Hedges & Hedges for their generosity.

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 2023 Photo Contest Deadline May 8, 2023**

Macro photography may be added as an option for each category. B. Cataldo will send the BCC members the most recent photo contest flyer for their review.

A. Bicknell made a motion to initiate the 2023 photo contest with a submission deadline of May 8, 2023. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

### **5.2 Stream Temperature Monitoring Update**

Six monitors are currently in the streams. Three have been recovered. P. Van Dine has not yet sent the data to Meghan Lally at the CTDEEP. Monitors are ready to be swapped out in the fall for year round stream temperature monitoring. Upper Bolton Lake could be a possible new location along with French Brook near Tinker Pond.

A tethered line of braided fish line was used along with rebar to install 2 monitors-one at Baker Brook and one at Bolton Pond Brook. The tidbit in the vernal pool is still missing. A grappler anchor may be used to pull it out. A magnet was tried but was not strong enough to pull up the rusty tidbit.

Rod interviewed people at Freja Park and many people were very appreciative of the work that the BCC does. Two gentlemen with metal detectors offered to go to the vernal pool to try to retrieve the tidbit on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. A. Bicknell and R. Parlee are available to join them.

P. Van Vine will share graphs of the temperature monitoring. J. Laughman asked if he could present a year to year comparison but P. Van Dine said that his program is not set up for that yet.

### **5.3 Election of Officers**

J. Laughman made a motion to nominate P. Van Dine as Treasurer. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

P. Van Dine noted that he would be happy to teach anyone the tasks necessary of the Treasurer.

B. Cataldo made a motion to nominate P. Van Dine as Vice Chairman. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

A. Bicknell made a motion to elect P. Van Dine as Vice Chairman. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion to nominate R. Parlee as Chairman. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 5:0:0

P. Van Dine made a motion to elect R. Parlee as Chairman. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 5:0:0

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Results of 2022 Photo Contest & Prize Distribution**

All outstanding prizes have been distributed since the last meeting. R. Parlee suggested that next year, the BCC needs to think about when the prizes will be at their prime. Some flowering varieties were not blooming when they were distributed this year. J. Laughman noted that it is difficult to determine when things will blossom as it depends on what is on the NCCD list and the growers that supply the plants. There are a lot of variables. Few perennials are blooming at the time of the contest. Gift cards to Cropley's may be an option.

### **6.2 Noise Pollution in Bolton**

Ron Beaudoin received a letter from Paul Kritzler, Supervising Environmental Engineer at the CTDEEP. R. Parlee read the highlights of the letter. R. Parlee clicked on the link in the letter that lists the approximately sixty towns in Connecticut that have noise ordinances. None of the ordinances specifically mention firearm discharge. Most ordinances are written to address noise arising from specific business operations.

Mr. Beaudoin has been hearing gunshots near his residence for the past seven months. Mr. Beaudoin has spoken about this issue with Selectman Bob Morra and the Resident State Trooper. Mrs. Beaudoin and First Selectman Pamela Sawyer were present during the conversation with the State Trooper. Mr. Beaudoin has also made a number of phone calls to Captain Mazzotta from the CTDEEP Encon Police. Captain Mazzotta explained that the 500 foot rule is a hunting regulation only. There are no noise restrictions on private property and the noise cannot be measured due to lack of equipment and personnel. There is no event that lasts long enough for the State Trooper to respond and hear the noise.

P. Van Dine stated that the BCC can support a noise ordinance but should not be the ones to draft it. The BCC could write a formal letter to the Board of Selectman stating support for a noise ordinance and emphasizing the continued discharge of firearms. R. Parlee said that more research needs to be done. P. Van Dine made a motion stating that the BCC agrees to research the noise complaints due to firearm discharge in a residential area and the issue will be revisited in August. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Mr. Beaudoin will contact his neighbors through Email to see if they would sign a letter in support of a noise ordinance specifying firearm discharge within hearing distance. A. Bicknell suggested keeping track of the timing of the noise and the number of shots and J. Laughman suggested that the neighbors include their addresses when they indicate their support.

### **6.3 Review of POCD-Peter**

This has been discussed for a number of months. There are projects in the plan that should be discussed before the new plan comes out in 2025. R. Parlee suggested writing a letter to the Inlands Wetlands Commission to see what ideas they have regarding increasing the upland review area in the upper wetlands area in Bolton Lake and restoring natural edges to water bodies. P. Van Dine feels that the BCC should approach the IWC with positive thoughts. P. Van Dine has developed a two page outline as a working document for Action Number 10 on page 26. The document makes eight or nine important points and includes management of storm

water around the lakes. A statement regarding natural edges around water bodies can be included.

J. Laughman asked if there is concern about runoff in the streets such as debris that clogs the storm drains. She is concerned about informing the public that everything that goes into the streets eventually goes into a water source and can cause problems. One example is grass clippings increasing the nitrogen concentration in waterways. P. Van Dine stated that the POCD asks that the IWC make policy to manage storm water runoff to reduce the impact of flooding. He has not reviewed the zoning regulations regarding storm runoff.

#### **6.4 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP and CACIWC and Trails Committee Reports**

**FBL-P.** Van Dine noted that the last meeting was held in June. Watershed signs have been installed in all towns except Bolton.

**BLWCA-**Will meet on Wednesday of next week. The CT Sea Grant account may be used for Zoom access as the FBL Zoom account is no longer available. Open space mapping within watersheds will be shared.

**SRWP-M.** Rivers reported that he will Email Pat Young for a recap of the last meeting. A ten year plan is being developed.

**CACIWC-R.** Parlee noted that a state wide conference is being planned for the last Saturday in October. This will be a hybrid meeting-virtual and in person. The BCC plans to have a table display.

**Trails Committee-** There was no meeting last month. There is a conceptual and unofficial parking lot proposal for the Nathan Hale Greenway included in the correspondence. The definition of rural will be discussed in relation to a CT DOT grant.

#### **6.5 Photo Release Form for BCC Events-Brenda**

R. Parlee will forward a draft of the form to B. Cataldo for her review. B. Cataldo suggested including the release form on the sign-in clipboard at events.

#### **6.6 2023 Calendar Planning-Brenda/Peter**

B. Cataldo reported that planning is still in progress. R. Parlee asked her to provide the top twelve photos by the August meeting.

#### **7.0 Correspondence**

Letter received from John Bolduc dated July 2. He is with the Hop River Trail Alliance which includes all towns along the East Coast Greenway. R. Parlee met with Mr. Bolduc and Jim Adams to discuss areas that need improvement at the Mohegan Trailhead and to explain how check dams and water bars work. Mr. Bolduc will come up with a written plan and will submit it to the BCC. A combined work day will be planned.

R. Parlee shared a collage of photos of paint damage in Freja Park. Red, blue and white paint was used to spray on many trees. The resident trooper has been notified. A work party will be

held on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. to cover the illegal blazes in Freja Park. M. Rivers is available to join R. Parlee. They will also cover the illegal white blazes on the Preuss's property. Also, a lot of the survey stakes were observed as being bent and broken.

R. Parlee shared a letter that he wrote to the resident trooper on October 7, 2000 regarding illegal activity on the trails. Trail ambassadors were a proposed solution.

Noise ordinance letter from Paul Kritzler.

Unofficial plans for a parking lot at the Nathan Hale Greenway. Jim Adams questioned why so many parking spaces were being proposed.

### **8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice**

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

### **9.0 Adjournment**

B. Cataldo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Brand,

*Leslie J. Brand*

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.

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### **Financial Action items**

R. Parlee proposes that four cans of spray paint (white, black, grey and brown) be purchased at England Hardware for a work party this Saturday at a cost not to exceed \$40.00.

P. Van Dine made a motion to make the above purchase using the town's account at a cost not to exceed \$40.00. The purchase will be paid for using funds from the Conservation Activity Fund.

A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.