

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 4, 2019
7:00 p.m.
TOWN HALL

Members Present: Chairman Rodney Parlee, Alan Bicknell and Peter Van Dine
Others Present: Recording Secretary Leslie Brand

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1.2 Minutes Approval of January 7, 2019 Regular Meeting

A. Bicknell moved to accept the minutes as submitted. P. Van Dine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Public Comment: Milton Hathaway spoke about the patch cutting on Box Mountain. He wanted to ensure that the BCC was aware of the project. Cutting has begun and the skidding out has been done on frozen ground. The wetlands in the area will not be crossed. R. Parlee noted that out of 86 acres there will be patch cuts of up to 20 acres. There is a concern about the stream that runs through Freja Park due to the steepness of the area being cut. BCC is monitoring sediment in the stream.

Mr. Hathaway also spoke regarding Notch Pond. Due to the wash out of the dam, water is pouring through Railroad Brook to the pavilion. Within the last year, washouts are common and he feels that the pond may be contaminated. He wanted to know if the BCC is monitoring the situation. R. Parlee noted that he is not in agreement that there is contamination although plumes of silt have been coming from the highway. The BCC is monitoring stream temperatures in the area and they are monitoring Railroad Brook. Also, a riffle bio survey is performed annually with excellent results. Results showed that Notch Pond is healthy and the fish population has not been affected. P. Van Dine noted that the BCC is very concerned with the health of the pond and runoff from the bike trail. The BCC thanked Mr. Hathaway for sharing his thoughts and concerns.

3.0 Correspondence

Earth Day shirt brochure

ESRI bulletin Winter 2019

Connecticut Wildlife magazine November/December 2018

Aerial view of R. Parlee's house taken by drone. He feels that the BCC could possibly benefit from owning a drone. It could be used for public education, tree identification and the BCC could use it to check on town properties i.e. Herrick Park. Cost would be approximately \$1,500.00.

Registration letter about the Bolton Recreation Department Community fair to be held March 22, 2019 at the Bolton Center School.

Eversource tree trimming (scheduled maintenance) will be ongoing in the north section of town.

Journal Inquirer map showing the Route 6/44 exchange. This could be incorporated into the Freja Park map.

4.0 Financial Report

“The commission may receive gifts in the name of the municipality for any of its purposes and shall administer the same for such purposes subject to the terms of the gift” –CGS 7-131a (b)

As per the above, it appears that the BCC is allowed to have a fundraiser either in the 2020 calendar or in some other way if the purpose for the gift is noted. No permission is required from the BOS but will inform them as a courtesy.

\$85.00 remains in the Business and Training account. \$80.00 is needed for P. Van Dine (\$35.00) and R. Parlee (\$45.00) to attend the Volunteer Watershed Monitoring Conference in April.

\$65.00 is needed to send R. Parlee to the CLCC conference in March 2019.

P. Van Dine moved to transfer \$60.00 from office operating expense to business and professional training. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

P. Van Dine moved to expend \$80.00 to send himself and R. Parlee to the Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference on April 5, 2019. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

P. Van Dine moved to spend \$65.00 to send R. Parlee to the CLCC conference on March 23, 2019. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

P. Van Dine moved that in the event that the BOS fails to transfer \$60.00 for the CLCC conference that \$60.00 will be taken from the CAF (Conservation Activity Fund). A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Bicknell to research cost of waders. At least one pair is needed. Depending on price 2 pairs may be purchased. More research needs to be done regarding the possible purchase of a drone. Rental may be a better option. P. Van Dine to research cost and availability of opacity meters and other more sophisticated equipment for stream monitoring.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Approve FY 2017-2018 Annual Report

R. Parlee submitted a draft copy of the report to the commission. Minor revisions were suggested. BCC members approved the report as amended.

5.2 2019 Calendar

\$70.00 was collected from R. Parlee and A. Bicknell. P. Van Dine moved to lower the calendar price to \$5.00. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously. P. Van Dine will notify the library of the price change.

5.3 Results of Winter Trails Day

There were various signs of flora and fauna. The circumference of a red oak was measured at 144 inches (at chest height) at Heritage Farm. Also at Heritage Farm, the circumference of an ironwood was measured at 17 inches (at chest height). A new location was suggested for 2020. Possibly Freja Park.

5.4 Freja Park 50th Anniversary on Earth Day

January 22, 2019 was the actual anniversary. The celebration will be held on April 27, 2019. P. Van Dine will contact the guest of honor as the date approaches. The Freja Park brochure needs to be ready for the anniversary. A fairy house contest will be held. A. Bicknell suggested holding a picnic or some other activity rather than just a photo op to make it more of a celebration. P. Van Dine will try to find more people who were associated with Freja lodge. R. Parlee will reach out to S. Pierog to see if she could attend.

5.5 Freja Kiosk Inspection, Reinstallation and Lexan Replacement

On February 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. P. Van Dine and R. Parlee will examine the Freja kiosk that is being stored in the barn at Heritage Farm. A. Bicknell is continuing research of lexan pricing.

5.6 Open Space Mapping/GIS Workstation

The BCC archive (11 years of data) of open space mapping has been lost per J. Stille. R. Parlee will see if he has a backup copy. The mapping had been performed with the use of a grant from UTC for a GIS workstation and software. The CRCOG has eliminated the need for our own GIS workstation. P. Van Dine suggested that because open space mapping data is available from CRCOG that the BCC move forward using that information.

5.7 Freja/Herrick/BNSP Trail Monitor Report

A. Bicknell hiked Herrick Park. The trail and the blazes look good. Freja Park needs to be looked at.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Library Exhibit

A. Bicknell suggested using the usual info from tabling events. R. Parlee will try to schedule a special BCC meeting to go over what will be included in the exhibit. Costs need to be finalized. Set up can take place when the current display is removed.

6.2 Photo Contest Outreach

B. Cataldo will print out 8.5" x 11" flyers promoting the contest. They will be displayed at the same places that calendars were sold. R. Parlee will coordinate with Bolton High School art teacher Lisa Agenta to get students involved again. P. Van Dine will bring a flyer to the FBL meeting.

6.3 Vernal Pools & Trails Day

R. Parlee proposed a vernal pools hike on March 24, 2019^{at} 1:00 p.m. from the commuter lot to the classic vernal pool in BNSP off the Mohegan Trail. Trails Day registration is due. It would be a morning hike. P. Van Dine suggested taking the trail behind Munson's. He may be able to get a contact from the UCONN geology dept to attend. The trail needs to be scouted out first. As an alternative, A. Bicknell suggested hiking down the hill from Steele's Crossing and Heritage Farm.

6.4 BCC Citizen Science (Volunteer Monitoring) Initiative

Potential projects for 2019 are capturing property with drones and adding stream opacity monitoring. P. Van Dine will research other monitoring options. R. Parlee will look at bacteria and chloroform monitoring. P. Van Dine noted that there are concerns regarding blue green algae (cyanobacteria). The FBL have BART (bacterial activity reaction test) devices to monitor it and other bacteria. The approximate cost for 9 tests is \$130.00.

6.5 FBL and BLWCA Report (next mtg 2/13) – UCONN AWC GPR & Sediment Coring Project

P. Van Dine showed a GPS map of the Atlantic White cedar swamp from February 2018. Red flags noted where the core samples were taken. On January 29, 2019 the cores samples were opened. Between 55-65 centimeters there was significant charcoal denoting a past fire, man-made or a natural occurrence. Eastern purple bladderwort roots were also found in the samples.

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

P. Van Dine moved to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

P. Van Dine mentioned that the envelopes containing the Town of Bolton W-2 forms had the insignia of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (www.sfiprogram.org).

8.0 Adjournment

P. Van Dine moved to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Brand

Leslie J. Brand

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

