

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING utilizing ZOOM

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order-Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

1.2 Minutes Review of August 3, 2020 Regular Meeting

P. Van Dine made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 3:0:1. J. Laughman abstained.

2.0 Public Comment:

R. Parlee spoke with town media coordinator Gary Silver asking him to contact the Journal Inquirer to have the Bolton Conservation Commission and other town meetings listed in the paper. Public participation in meetings may increase if there is more awareness.

3.0 Correspondence:

Email received from Alan Wiedie asking about harvesting cattails to be used for chair seat weaving.

The BCC wanted to verify the species of native, broad-leaved (*Typha latifolia*) or non-native, narrow leaved (*Typha angustifolia*) before harvesting.

Email response to the above from commission member Jean Laughman. Ms Laughman verified the cattail species on the Heritage Farm and behind BHS are native, identified by one long seed body. The non-native species has two brown seed heads on the top separated by an inch or two.

Town Administrator Joshua Kelly contacted R. Parlee to ask if the fire chief could share the GIS Workstation cubicle at the Town Hall. J. Kelly was in also in favor of having a central storage area on the server for BCC information and offered to set up one with an e-mail address.

B. Cataldo received a letter dated August 3, 2020, from Arlene Fiano representing the Heritage Farm Foundation about the cancellation of the Farmer's Market and Truck/Tractor Show scheduled for August 31, 2020. Concerns due to COVID-19 were responsible for the cancellation. Many 300 year anniversary events are planned for 2021.

4.0 Financial Report:

P. Van Dine verbally shared the financial report. A \$50.00 increase to the budget for FY 2021 was granted.

5.0 Continuing Business

5.1 20th Annual Photo Contest Flyer-Rules/Marketing Review

R. Parlee shared the Photo Contest Flyer. The categories have been updated to:

1. Examples of Green Living and Farming
2. Wildlife in Bolton
3. People in the Environment
4. Beauty of Open Space and Nature

The rules were discussed and slight amendments were made.

Eligibility will be open to all regardless of residency. BCC members are not eligible to participate. Photos must be taken in the Town of Bolton.

J. Laughman asked about the ability to submit 3 photos for one category. This can lead to one person winning more than one prize in a category. No change was made for this rule.

Photos can be submitted in either portrait or landscape mode although landscape mode is preferred for inclusion in the calendar.

Photo titles can be suggested but may be amended by the BCC.

Add the words “we anticipate” to the statement that all prizes will be awarded at the Bolton Family Day event on May 31, 2021, following the Memorial Day parade.

The contest prizes are proposed to be bigger and better to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of the contest.

The deadline for submission is May 10, 2021.

5.2 Library Exhibit Pick-up Status

Last week, A. Bicknell and R. Parlee picked up the materials that had been on display and R. Parlee collected \$10.00 from calendar sales.

P. Van Dine made a motion to confirm the scheduling of a library display showcase for March 2021. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0

5.3 Monthly Trail Work Party BCC

The autumn olive in Freja Park was cut back last month near the “Welcome to Freja Park” sign. There was also bittersweet that was strangling the autumn olive.

Tuesday, September 29, 2020, was proposed as a work day at Freja Park starting at 1:00 p.m.

A work day for Herrick Park will be scheduled next month.

5.4 Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM Data Collection

R. Parlee received an Email from Meghan Lally from DEEP with a reminder that hunting season is approaching and that when doing research in the field, orange vests should be worn.

The RBV is scheduled for October 18, 2020. P. Van Dine suggested further monitoring when the water levels are higher. R. Parlee suggested monitoring a new location in the Nathan Hale Greenway.

6.0 New Business

6.1 2021 Calendar Update

R. Parlee shared a sampling of the proposed calendar pages. Meeting and event dates need to be verified and added to the calendar.

J. Laughman made a motion to propose the following BCC meeting dates for 2021:

Monday, January 4, 2021

Monday, February 1, 2021

Monday, March 1, 2021

Monday, April 5, 2021

Monday, May 3, 2021

Monday, June 7, 2021

Thursday, July 8, 2021

Monday, August 2, 2021

Thursday, September 2, 2021

Monday, October 4, 2021

Monday, November 1, 2021*

Monday, December 6, 2021

*Possible change of venue necessary due to voting at Town Hall

B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

R. Parlee will ask Joshua Kelly about 300th anniversary event dates for 2021. IWC and astronomical dates need to be determined. The Inland Wetlands Commission meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

R. Parlee will write a letter for the calendar and will compile a collage of photos.

B. Cataldo will have a rough draft ready for review at the October BCC meeting.

The calendars will be sold for \$10.00. 63 cents of sales tax will have to be collected on each calendar, dropping the proceeds on each calendar to \$9.37.

6.2 RBV on Sunday, October 18, 2020

BCC members will meet at B. Cataldo's home and identification of samples will take place there as well. R. Parlee will find out from Joshua Kelly if the RBV will be allowed outside under a tent or if he has any other suggestions. Four sites will be monitored. Separate tables will be set up for sample identification to allow for social distancing.

6.3 Peak Foliage Hike at Herrick on Saturday, October 24th

Conditions at Herrick Park need to be checked to make sure the trails are passable. The hike location could be changed to Heritage Farm or Freja Park. R. Parlee will check with Joshua Kelly to make sure that this hike will be allowed. The hike will be rescheduled for 2021 if necessary.

6.4 LBL Lakefront Lawn Inventory

P. Van Dine sent a map of the inventory to R. Parlee. It needs to be determined how many have a buffer of natural vegetation, sand beach, retaining wall, etc.

P. Van Dine will forward pictures to J. Laughman of a group of non-native ducks that were seen on the lake. She will attempt to identify the species. They are weed eating ducks but they are eating everything, not only the invasives.

R. Parlee and M. Rivers have surveyed some of Middle Bolton Lake and have started an inventory.

Simsbury has banned the feeding of all wildlife in town including birds due to bear activity.

6.5 SCT, FBL and BLWCA Reports

There was no SCT meeting in August. The next meeting of the Bolton SCT will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

The FBL did not meet this month. In lieu of the meeting, there was a lecture on invasive plants including boating rules that include cleaning plant material off of your boat before taking it on the road.

P. Van Dine noted that Hurricane Isaias completely changed the layering of the lake in 30 minutes. There is no layering since the hurricane. The lake clarity has been affected.

R. Parlee will check with Eric Thomas to obtain a copy of the information pamphlet for lake residents. He would like to have the BCC review it to see if there are better ways to control erosion on the lake front.

The next BLWCA meeting will be held on September 9, 2020 to discuss latest efforts in requesting that Tolland increase their upland review area around the Atlantic white cedar. Michael Carlo will apply for a NOAA habitat focus area on behalf of the alliance.

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, J. Laughman will be attending the CIPWG (Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group) annual conference “Realistic Solutions to Managing Invasive Plants”. The attendance fee is \$50.00.

B. Cataldo made a motion to reimburse J. Laughman from the BCC Activity and Dues account. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0. J. Laughman will forward the application form and invoice to P. Van Dine.

7.0 Approval of Clerk’s Invoice

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the clerk’s invoice as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

8.0 Adjournment

B. Cataldo made a motion to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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