

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Cataldo Residence, 16 Brookfield Rd. Bolton, CT 06043

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman, Matt Rivers (Alternate, via phone) and Peter Van Dine (left the meeting at 7:45)

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and thanked B. Cataldo for hosting the meeting.

1.2 Minutes Review of September 3, 2020 Regular Meeting

Under 3.0 Correspondence, In paragraph four, fire chief should read assistant fire chief. And UCONN student Kevin Fitzgerald acting as Innovation Intern will also be sharing the GIS workstation.

A. Bicknell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Correspondence:

Journal Inquirer Article from 9/21/2020 titled "Prepare Your Trees for the Next Cicada Invasion"

Town of Bolton Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 2019

Bolton Land Trust Membership Thank You Note received September 14, 2020

CT Wildlife Magazine May/June

ArcNews Summer 2020

ESRI News Summer 2020

Forestry Suppliers Catalog Summer 2020

CLCC Online Gathering Invitation for 10/17/2020

Friends of Valley Falls Newsletter

J. Laughman provided information on the Spotted Lantern Fly invasion from the CT AG Experimental Station

P. Van Dine handed out pocket guides of the Freedom of Information Act

4.0 Financial Report:

P. Van Dine passed out copies of the financial report. R. Parlee submitted \$10.00 received from calendar sales and he submitted a receipt for spray paint used to re-blaze trails in Freja Park.

5.0 Continuing Business

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

The photo contest flyer has been reformatted and updated. J. Laughman will review the flyer before it is made public.

5.2 “Town for All Seasons” 2021 Calendar Approval

R. Parlee is adding information to the Town BCC GIS Data Workstation regarding BCC documents, such as detailed documents that are required to produce a successful calendar.

Items to be included in the calendar:

1. Photo Contest Flyer (reformatted and updated) to be added perhaps as an insert on the back of the donation request form.
2. Monthly photos (try to match the season and promote people and green building concepts). Cover should have a winter photo to help sales in December.
3. “A message from our Chair” This will be a short letter including a message that donations are accepted. J. Laughman will proofread the letter before inclusion.
4. 2020 BCC collage including photos of Conservation Commission activities. R. Parlee is working on compiling this.
5. BCC Event Days (approved):

Winter Trails Day, January 16, 2021
Vernal Pools Day, March 27, 2021
Earth Day, April 24, 2021
Kids to Parks Day, TBD, sometime in mid-May
Trails Day, June 5, 2021
Peak Foliage Hike, October 16, 2021
RBV, October 24, 2021
6. Winter Faire-need to check if it is on for 2021
7. BCC Meeting Dates for 2021 (approved)
8. Freja Park Work Parties (Bi-Monthly on Saturdays as place holders) and a note to contact the BCC for more info)
9. BCC Photo Contest Deadline, May 10, 2021
10. IWC Meeting Dates-need to contact the Chair

11. Scrap Metal Pickup Dates –R. Parlee will contact the Town Administrator for information
12. 300-year Anniversary Dates-R. Parlee will contact the Town Administrator for information
13. Sustainable CT Meetings (last Wednesday of each month)-R. Parlee will contact the Town Administrator for confirmation
14. Friends of Bolton Lakes Meeting Dates, Regatta (generally held on the Sunday before Labor Day), Forum, etc. P. Van Dine will verify meeting dates
15. Kids to Parks Day-need to contact the Rec Director
16. Farmer’s Market (B. Cataldo will check with the Heritage Farm Commission)
17. Full Moons, Holidays, etc.
18. “Request for Donation” envelopes or paper insert bound by spiral. R. Parlee and B. Cataldo will research the cost of this. If envelopes are used, perhaps only include them in 50 calendars.
19. Calendar Promo Flyer-Brenda
20. Advertisement Application Form-In the past, B. Cataldo has solicited donations from businesses in Town. She will make phone calls this year as opposed to stopping by in person. P. Van Dine suggested Able Coil as a possible donation opportunity. J. Laughman also mentioned the Senior Center as a possible venue. M. Rivers will forward an Email address for the Senior Center to R. Parlee.
21. Disclaimer language

Flyers noting that calendars are for sale are usually posted at several locations in Town. This year, flyers will be only posted at the Library and Town Hall.

R. Parlee proposes having the 2021 calendar bound and printed with the Photo Contest insert and Request for Donation insert and ready to sell by November 1, 2020. He thinks that the later it’s published, the less will be sold.

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the event dates as presented for 2021. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6:0:0.

125-150 calendars were published last year. 18 were unsold.

The initial printing for 2021 will be 100 copies.

P. Van Dine noted that the BCC should request permission from the Town to print the calendar.

5.3 Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM Data Collection

The streams are low due to lack of rain fall. The one temperature monitor is barely covered by the water in the streams. The tidbit that was lost on Mark Anthony Lane has been recovered. R. Parlee located it with a metal detector, four feet to the left of where it had been placed.

6.0 New Business

6.1 RBV on Sunday, October 18, 2020

The RBV may need to be rescheduled to November pending stream levels.

6.2 Peak Foliage Hike at Herrick on Saturday, October 24

M. Rivers will lead trail monitoring at Herrick Park on October 11, 2020, at 1:00 to see if the trees have been moved from the trail.

On September 29, 2020, R. Parlee and J. Laughman walked Freja Park. Signs had been stolen and some blazes were scraped off with an axe. R. Parlee removed one of the signs from the park that was hanging by one screw. He will reinstall it at the entrance to the park. R. Parlee will contact the resident State Trooper regarding the vandalism in the park.

6.3 SCT, FBL and BLWCA Reports

P. Van Dine reported that the water clarity levels in Lower Lake are better than Middle Lake Vernon although the water level in both lakes is down. The Secchi disc reading in Lower Lake is at 2.5 meters and Middle Lake is at 1.5 meters. There is no through flow. Middle Lake received herbicide treatment this year and the deterioration of plant mass may be contributing to the lower water level. If Middle Lake is not in good condition the DEEP should check the water flow in the lakes before the drawdown. The drawdown will be discussed at the next BLWCA meeting.

The expenditure for the upper lake dam has been approved. Construction may begin this fall. A deep drawdown of Middle Lake may be necessary if construction begins.

Bolton received \$250,000.00 through a STEAP grant years ago to be used for project development. It was used to pay NEAR for analysis and Solitude Lake Management for chemical algaecide application. The money is going away at the end of the year and \$5,000.00 remains. Hillary Kenyon Garvey will work on a proposal with FBL's assistance to put together a watershed management plan. FBL would rather use the money to put the plan out to bid.

R. Parlee and M. Rivers surveyed Middle Lake by kayak to do a lakefront lawn inventory. There are 11 beaches and 14 lawns along Middle Bolton Lake. There is a model retaining wall on the west shore of Middle Lake that was quite striking. One of the lawns had a Styrofoam boom along the length of the lawn. Two samples of cattail reeds were collected and the samples were compared with samples from the last kayaking trip. They are trying to determine if they are invasive or noninvasive species.

SCT and BLWCA have not met recently.

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0

8.0 Adjournment

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 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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