

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

February 3, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Bolton Town Hall

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo and Jean Laughman and Alternate Matthew Rivers

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1.2 Minutes Approval of January 6, 2020 Regular Meeting

Under **3.0 Correspondence**, correct the date for Freedom of Information training to February 24, 2020. A. Bicknell moved to accept the minutes as amended. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Correspondence:

Received outstanding payment of \$55.00 for a composter

Information for the CLCC conference on Saturday March 21, 2020 at Wesleyan University

Brochure of Earth Day T-Shirts. M. Rivers moved to appropriate \$155.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase 20 Earth Day t-shirts. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Email from Rod to BCC members regarding aquifer protection area program technical training. The Bolton aquifer extends from the site of the Old Cider Mill up Routes 6/44 to Freja Park. Commission members were encouraged to complete this ongoing online training.

4.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine emailed the report to all Commission members. The processing of sales tax on calendar sales remains an outstanding question. J. Laughman moved to accept the report as submitted. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4.1 Composter Sales

2 composters have been sold out of the 6 ordered. One demo and one saleable composter will be brought to events.

M. Rivers feels that there should be more community education on the use and benefits of composters. R. Parlee mentioned Sustainable CT and their efforts in community education surrounding recycling in general.

A. Bicknell mentioned putting up flyers at locations in town (Town Hall, Library, etc.) advertising composters. B. Cataldo and A. Bicknell will work on producing an advertising flyer.

4.2 RBV Supply-Purchase

R. Parlee will determine the sizes of waders and gloves to be ordered. Purchases will be made through Amazon.

4.3 Calendar Ads, Sales, Tax

B. Cataldo will check on sales at England Hardware. The calendars have been removed from the Pet Store Next Door.

J. Laughman questioned if it would be better to have the calendars ready for sale earlier in the year i.e. October or November. The Commission members agreed that it would be a good idea to have the calendars ready earlier. Different calendar software options will be researched.

4.4 Citizen Science Fund Outreach

R. Parlee feels that the hitchhiker envelopes in the calendar should be tied to a specific purpose.

R. Parlee presented information from James Mickley regarding home brew electronics and his creation of a homemade weather station.

4.5 CLCC Conference

R. Parlee encouraged all Commission members to attend the CLCC Conference on March 21, 2020 at Wesleyan University. Workshops of interest to the Commission members include “Waging Peace Through Land Conservation”, “Land Trust Law School”, Film-“Lost Forests of New England”, “Drones for Biodiversity Conservation”, “Land Trusts Taking Action on Climate Change”, “Native American Stone Ceremonial Sites on Public and Private Lands”, “Become a Certified Frog Watch Citizen Scientist”, “Restoring a Coastal Forest in Westport” and “Innovative Beaver Control Program”. A. Bicknell, B. Cataldo, R. Parlee and M. Rivers plan to attend the Conference.

B. Cataldo moved to appropriate \$260.00 (\$65.00 per person) from the Business and Professional Training Account for attendance at the CLCC Conference. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Winter Trails Day Results

R. Parlee noted that he attended along with Ray Hardy, A. Bicknell, J. Laughman and M. Rivers. Lichen formations were investigated. There were circles called pancake ice present on Bolton Notch Pond.

5.2 Freja/Herrick/BNSP Trail Monitor Report (Homeless Encampment)

There has been homeless activity near the former drive-in area. The State Police and the Town are aware of the situation.

Options for notebook replacement were discussed. Metal was suggested.

A. Bicknell walked Freja Park on Winter Trails Day. More paint is on the rocks at the flag.

R. Parlee will compile a list of suggestions for trail monitoring. J. Laughman suggested checking with the CT Forest and Parks Association for a list of monitoring suggestions. Subcommittees were suggested for wildlife monitoring, trail monitoring and monitoring of Bolton Lake.

5.3 BCC Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM/RBV Data Collection Status

R. Parlee noted that the tidbit has not been activated. The hoboies should be returned from the state shortly.

5.4 Bobcat Woods Walk and Management Recommendations

R. Parlee and P. Van Dine walked this area with fifteen others with the Bolton Land Trust. Management options need to be discussed with the community. Representatives of the cross country team, scouts, bicyclists, Land Trust members, etc. were present.

R. Parlee will draft a letter to the Land Trust after conditions are established to suggest that part of that parcel be allowed to become old growth forest. The Forever Wild info will be sent to Gwen Marrion.

5.5 FY 18-19 Annual Report

The report was distributed for Commission review. Revisions were made and agreed upon by the Commission. J. Laughman moved to approve the Annual Report as amended. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Library Exhibit for March

The theme is Citizen Science. Last year, the table top exhibit was used for the showcase. This year, the tabletop exhibit will be unavailable as it will be used for the Community Resources Fair on March 13, 2020. B. Cataldo will put together another photo collage. R. Parlee will contribute has several Citizen Science related photographs. The composter flyer and hobo information will also be included. The 300th anniversary celebration will be tied in by showing pictures of transitions over time.

A. Bicknell will meet at R. Parlee's house on February 28, 2020 to coordinate the display prior to the set up at the library on Saturday, February 29, 2020.

6.2 March 13 Community Resources Fair BCS 6-8 p.m.

The tabletop display will be exhibited. A. Bicknell will attend from 6-8 p.m. J. Laughman will attend from 6-7 p.m.

6.3 March 21, Vernal Pools Day and Brochure

Vernal Pools Day will be changed to Sunday, March 22, 2020. Ed Pawlak will be asked to attend. A. Bicknell moved to expend \$50.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to print 100 Vernal Pools brochures. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6.4 April 25, Earth Day-50 “Nature Blitz” Proposal

This will be held at Freja Park. “Nature Blitz” will consist of hikes on the hour. Ideas include a bird watch, a lichen walk, a botany walk, invasive species identification and remediation, an owl prowl, AMC leave no trace hike and a stream monitoring demonstration. Commission members will reach out to Freja, a young lady named after Freja Park.

M. Rivers moved to appropriate up to \$80.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase prizes for the Fairy House contest. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6.5 June 6, Trails Day

The date will be changed to Sunday, June 7, 2020 at Nathan Hale Greenway. Trail planning and maintenance will be the focus. Dave Boone, AMC CT Chapter Trails Committee Chair has been invited.

6.6 Open Space/490 Mapping: No report

6.7 Sustainable CT Meeting Results and Next mtgs 2/26, 3/25

Assignments for groups and individuals were discussed at the last meeting. R. Parlee and P. Van Dine have been assigned to provide information on a watershed management plan and a water conservation plan and to provide watershed education. Deb Livingston and Jean Laughman will attend the next meeting to offer input on recycling.

6.8 FBL and BLWCA Report, EPA 319 Grant Application

The FBL is meeting this week and will be finalizing the 319 Grant Application. It is more complicated than expected. February 12, 2020, is the next BLWCA meeting. Upland river review areas will be discussed.

7.0 Approval of Clerk’s Invoice

A. Bicknell moved to accept the clerk’s invoice as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8.0 Adjournment

B. Cataldo moved to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2020, 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.

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