

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman, Peter Van Dine and Alternate Matt Rivers (joined the meeting at 7:51 p.m.)

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**2.0 Minutes Review of October 4, 2021 Regular Meeting**

B. Cataldo made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**3.0 Public Comment:** None

**4.0 Financial Report**

**4.1 Freja Park Brochure and Calendar**

P. Van Dine noted that the Freja Park brochure invoice was received and forwarded to the town for payment.

The purchase order for calendar printing has been approved.

**4.2 Budget Paperwork i.e., Questionnaire, Add/Drop Decisions due by 12/20**

R. Parlee went over the details of the budget process. P. Van Dine will follow up on this and will report back to the commission in December with his suggestions. J. Laughman asked why there might be a proposed increase in the budget. P. Van Dine feels that the town should subsidize some of the cost of purchasing additional stream temperature monitors and the cost of laboratory analysis of water samples.

Discussion ensued about the different monitoring sites and the presence of macroinvertebrates. J. Laughman will reach out to Pat Young who heads up the Salmon River Watershed Partnership about monitoring the Salmon River with conductivity monitors. Eric Thomas of the CT DEEP attended the last Conservation Alliance meeting and he pointed out that the Salmon River Association has a cooperative relationship with several towns.

**4.3 Annual Memberships i.e., CACIWC, BLT and CLCC**

P. Van Dine noted that the CACIWC membership is all set. A. Bicknell and J. Laughman have registered for the conference that is scheduled for this Saturday, November 6, 2021. Payment forms have been submitted to the town.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$50.00 from the Professional Dues Account to pay for the annual memberships to BLT (\$25.00) and CLCC (\$25.00). B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

#### **4.4 CACIWC Annual Meeting on November 6, 2021**

A. Bicknell and J. Laughman are attending. They will provide a recap at the December BCC meeting.

#### **4.5 Proposal to Purchase Custom Safety Vests for Field Work**

M. Rivers suggested that the BCC members wear florescent vests when performing field work.  
B. Cataldo will research the cost of obtaining six vests with the BCC logo.

### **5.0 Continuing Business**

#### **5.1 2021-22 Calendar Sales**

B. Cataldo will have a draft of the calendar ready soon and she will finish soliciting sponsors by the end of next week. P. Van Dine asked if Able Coil or Dean Cabinetry have been solicited for sponsorship. B. Cataldo said that in general, the sponsors have been businesses that individuals can patronize. Sponsorship solicitations will be left up to B. Cataldo's discretion.

The request for donations insert is complete with all of the dates revised.

R. Parlee shared the photo collage that will be in the calendar.

#### **5.2 Groundwater Resource Inventory-Laboratory Analysis Account Update**

P. Van Dine suggested an increase in the budget to pay for laboratory testing.

R. Parlee will contact Meghan Lally about what further testing she has planned and the cost of the testing.

R. Parlee said that Notch Pond would be a good testing site and he asked if P. Van Dine would be available to test for dissolved oxygen. He replied in the affirmative with a day's notice although he noted that dissolved oxygen testing isn't normally done from December through March. R. Parlee asked if the source of the ice circles could be traced by this testing. P. Van Dine was unsure. P. Van Dine felt that the end of March or the beginning of April would be a good starting point to do testing twice a month. Chloride, dissolved oxygen, pH and temperature will be tested in November.

R. Parlee has some chloride test strips that can be used but P. Van Dine said that a professional would not take that sort of testing seriously. A representative of DEEP felt that Notch Pond would be a good site for chloride testing. Chloride testing would not be too expensive. Metal testing is much more costly.

#### **5.3 French Brook Stream Walk**

Meghan Lally suggested looking at different locations for testing in French Brook and J. Laughman agreed that other locations along the stream should be investigated. Permission will have to be granted from several landowners. P. Van Dine suggested sending letters or visiting the landowners in person. J. Laughman noted that there was very little sand and not many rocks in French Brook. In 2020 there was more sediment. This year the current was very strong and there was a lot of debris.

#### **5.4 Charter Revision Update**

The voting is final at 882-778. Regarding Question #8, the Planning and Zoning Commission will not be combined with the Inland Wetlands Commission. R. Parlee thanked everyone for their efforts in making this vote possible.

P. Van Dine suggested writing a letter to Pam Sawyer, the new first selectman congratulating her on her win and hoping for a good collaboration between the BOS and the BCC. P. Van Dine will send a draft of the letter to the BCC members for their review.

R. Parlee read aloud the 11<sup>th</sup> question on the Charter Revision vote that passed.

#### **6.0 New Business**

##### **6.1 Results of 10/30 RBV and Stream Temperature Monitor Recovery and Swapping**

Nine volunteers participated in the RBV. Ron Beaudoin, the original initiator of the RBV joined in the effort along with his support team of Matt and Mike McCune.

The rating system for species found during the RBV was as follows:

Most wanted	Moderately wanted	Least wanted	Other
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French Brook had 4 most wanted, 2 moderately wanted, 1 least wanted and 0 other

Baker Brook had 0 most wanted, 2 moderately wanted, 1 least wanted and 0 other

Railroad Brook had 2 most wanted, 3 moderately wanted, 0 least wanted and 1 other (2.5" crawfish)

Two monitors were swapped out-one at French Brook and one at Railroad Brook. Two monitors were not yet found-Bolton Pond Brook and Baker Brook. A monitor was previously retrieved at Upper Bolton Lake and one was swapped out at the Nathan Hale Greenway. There is still a tidbit in place at the BNSP vernal pool collecting rare data. P. Van Dine has downloaded the data but has not yet submitted it to the CT DEEP.

R. Parlee suggested that in 2022, while members will work in pairs, one site will be reviewed at a time by all team members.

M. Rivers suggested standardizing the securing and retrieval of monitors. P. Van Dine discussed the process that is used in the Farmington River and noted that during heavy water flow there is a concern. R. Parlee will follow up with Meghan Lally for more information.

##### **6.2 FBL and BLWCA Report**

P. Van Dine feels that there should be a separate page in the calendar to highlight associations that are conservation related i.e. FBL, CACIWC, CLCC, etc. without asking for sponsorship.

R. Parlee feels that the FBL should pay an advertising fee although some commission members disagreed.

Ways to increase membership were discussed at the last FBL meeting. Stormwater control was discussed along with the CT DEEP plans for drawdowns. Eric Thomas said that the best way to control storm water is to get towns to help one another

BLWCA meeting dates will be included in this year's BCC calendar- the second Wednesday of every month. An Email was received from Hillary Kenyon Garovoy regarding the watershed management plan. The Town of Vernon was sent a letter asking them to include information about the Bolton Lakes in their Plan of Conservation and Development.

### **6.3 BCC Peak Foliage Hike Report**

M. Rivers said that the foliage was not quite at peak. There were three participants who enjoyed the hike. The participants will be included in new database that M. Rivers will be compiling. R. Parlee will also be sending M. River contact information for the RBV participants.

### **6.4 Correspondence-Annual Report due by 12/20**

A request was received from Gary Silver to prepare the annual report by December 20, 2021. R. Parlee will circulate a draft for review.

Graffiti on the Jersey barrier at Freja Park was reported to Town Hall and a report was filed with the CSP. The Jersey barrier was painted grey by the town to cover the graffiti. M. Rivers suggested contacting the Bolton Art Council or art students to create a mural on the barriers.

An article was in the Connecticut Wildlife magazine about reporting wildlife-bobcat, black bears, moose, fisher cats, ruffed grouse and turkey broods to the CT DEEP, including the dates and time of sightings.

R. Parlee received a call from Eversource about an energy metering study. They asked R. Parlee to attach a monitor to his electrical panel to monitor his energy use.

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

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

### **8.0 Adjournment**

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2021 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.

