

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2022, 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

Others Present: Special Guest, Pat Young, Watershed Coordinator of the Salmon River Watershed Partnership

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting

Under 6.1 In paragraph 6, line 2, correct them to then.

Under 6.4 In paragraph 2, line 1, correct They to The

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

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

R. Parlee shared the Financial Report online.

Jenna Matos from the Bolton Finance Department indicated to P. Van Dine that some of the accounts have been changed.

4.1 Calendar Revenue Received including Donations

All advertisement payments have been collected. \$45.00 has been received in donations. There is a net profit of \$900.00 and there are still calendars for sale.

4.2 Request for Transfer

P. Van Dine suggested waiting on transfers pending the Board of Selectmen Special Budget Meeting scheduled for tomorrow night.

4.3 Custom Safety Vests – Request for Payment

10 vests were purchased at \$7.29 per vest. Stencils were \$10.00 per vest. The request for payment is on hold pending the BOS budget meeting. The total cost was \$23.98 over the original motion from December 6, 2021, to appropriate \$150.00. R. Parlee expressed his thanks to B. Cataldo and her daughter for their work on obtaining the vests and applying the stencils. The vests can be washed but they are not dryer safe.

4.4 Status of Brochure “Importance of Dead Wood”

B. Cataldo will confirm the pricing with Jason. \$100.00 was appropriated in February for printing 150 brochures.

4.5 Composter Supply

The last two composters have been sold.

5.0 Continuing Business

5.1 2023 Calendar Planning – Brenda

B. Cataldo will follow up on this. P. Van Dine offered to proofread the calendar when it is prepared.

5.2 Water Resources-Laboratory Analysis Account Update-Peter

P. Van Dine noted that there was a request for a budget increase for laboratory analysis and he mentioned it in the budget meeting that he was invited to. It has also been mentioned in a memo to Pam Sawyer. An account must be set up at Phoenix Labs before they will accept a water sample.

5.3 Outreach: February Recycling Exhibit and Program at Library Results

R. Parlee thanked A. Bicknell and J. Laughman for their work on the library exhibit. J. Laughman attended the recycling presentation given by Sherrill Baldwin. Approximately twelve people listened to the presentation. Helpful guidelines were shared including the fact that food containers and cleaning bottles (sprayers removed) are recyclable. Caps should be attached to bottles as the loose tops fall through the screens. Ms. Baldwin referenced the CTDEEP recycling website. The session was recorded and will be available at some point.

R. Parlee mentioned that there is a bill before the general assembly to ban polystyrene containers. M. Rivers mentioned a concern that the alternatives would be paper or plastic and in general, single use vessels are a concern.

A. Bicknell suggested putting a notebook on the trails where people could comment on BCC events and presentations.

5.4 BCC Vernal Pools Day Hikes

The hike is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Participants will meet at the parking lot on Route 6 between Munson’s and Bolton Collision Repair. R. Parlee extended an invitation to Ed Pawlak who will be joining the hike.

5.5 Earth Day 2022

Earth Day is April 23, 2022. A fairy house contest will be held. B. Cataldo noted that there are some prizes left over from last year. B. Cataldo will look at Ladd’s Garden Center in North Windham for additional prizes. R. Parlee will ask Hank Gruner to join the Earth Day celebration.

Tee shirts will be ordered for the fairy house building participants. B. Cataldo made a motion to appropriate up to \$100.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase Earth Day Tee Shirts

from the same company that has printed them in the past. A, Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:00

6.0 New Business

6.1 Salmon River Watershed Partnership and Stream Monitoring – Pat Young

R. Parlee shared a PowerPoint presentation that was prepared by Ms. Young. The SRWP runs four water testing programs annually-Macroinvertebrate Monitoring, Summer Stream Temperature Monitoring, Stream Conductivity and Summer Baseline Stream Monitoring. No other town besides Bolton does macroinvertebrate monitoring. 20-30 people participate in the programs on a regular basis. There is a lot of outreach to the local schools and community volunteers are also used. CT DEEP protocols are followed.

The SRWP owns and uses ten loggers for summer stream temperature monitoring. R. Parlee noted that the BCC monitors stream temperatures throughout the year. The data can be downloaded using software from Onset and then exported into an Excel file for graphing. P. Van Dine noted that only one of the BCC hoboos is in a place that the SRWP monitors. M. Young would like that information to be shared with the SRWP. Ms. Young was interested in any data that P. Van Dine has to share.

Ten conductivity loggers are deployed year-round. These are used to monitor salt levels. They are kept in place for a few years and the data is downloaded for comparison purposes. CTDEEP and towns are interested in this data.

The next slide showed a comparison of the conductivity of 4 different brooks: Lyman Brook, Fawn Brook, Meadow Brook and Pocotopaug Brook.

Summer Baseline Stream monitoring is done with volunteers and interns for ten weeks every summer. There are two routes with a total of eleven sites. Handheld meters are used to test temperature, PH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, TDS and salinity.

The next slide was a graph comparing dissolved oxygen. Brook trout depend on dissolved oxygen for growth.

Q and A:

P. Van Dine noted that the BCC is not testing for conductivity due to the expense of the meters. They are approximately \$800.00 each. Ms. Young noted that some of the SRWP equipment is purchased through grants.

P. Van Dine noted that Bolton is a large watershed town and there is a significant problem with storm water going into the lakes. He would like to follow up with Ms. Young to discuss this. The town of East Hampton is very concerned with storm water runoff on Lake Pocotopaug. They may be a good resource of information. Ms. Young will forward the contact info to R. Parlee.

A. Bicknell asked about anchoring monitors to make sure they stay in place. The SRWP temperature loggers are on metal plates weighted down with rocks and paracorded to the side of the brook. Conductivity monitors are put on concrete blocks or metal plates coated with rubber so there is no conflict with conductivity.

R. Parlee thanked Ms. Young for her time tonight and for her SRWP efforts.

6.2 Photo Contest Prizes and NCCD Seedling Sale

R. Parlee noted that there were a lot of different items available this year. Paper Birch, Sycamore, Flowering Dogwood, Sweetbay magnolia and American Hazelnut were suggested for first prize.

B. Cataldo made a motion to appropriate up to \$350.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase trees, shrubs and/or perennials from the NCCD for the photo contest prizes. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

B. Cataldo and J. Laughman will work together to select the prizes and will coordinate payment with P. Van Dine.

The prizes will be noted on the photo contest flyer.

There was no interest in purchasing seedlings this year.

6.3 A Natural Forest Ecosystem: Best Practice for Natural Area Stewardship

R. Parlee shared this document with the commission members. He read the top ten benefits of maintaining a natural forest ecosystem.

6.4 Community Connectivity in Bolton

R. Parlee noted that tonight there was an informational session regarding a planned walking/bike path along the north side of Bolton Center Road. An RSA (Road Safety Audit) has been done for the center of town. The Trails Committee was instrumental in the planning of the bike path.

6.5 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP and CACIWC Reports- Peter, Rod, Matt

FBL-P. Van Dine stated that there is nothing new to report. The last comments on the watershed management report are being put together.

The next BLWCA is meeting on Wednesday. A student from Wesleyan is searching for a Hessel's hairstreak butterfly. April, May and July are the best times for spotting one. R. Parlee and A. Bicknell saw one last year near the stand of Atlantic White Cedar. The BLWCA management plan was discussed.

M. Rivers is an official member of the SRWP. He will follow up to get the next meeting date.

R. Parlee is taking a free wetlands training course through UConn.

7.0 Correspondence

The BCC sent a request to Kathy McCavanagh and Gary Silver to meet with Pam Sawyer.

Email about the proposed bike path from a Bolton Center Road resident

Natural Forest Ecosystem

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

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

9.0 Adjournment

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Brand,

Leslie J. Brand

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

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