

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, December 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.), Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine (joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and left the meeting at 8:39 p.m.) and Alternate Matt Rivers

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of November 3, 2022 Regular Meeting

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 Review FY 2023-24 Budget Proposal – Deadline 12/23

P. Van Dine sent the commission members the proposed budget. There is no increase in the budget from the previous year. The budget does not include the Conservation Activity Fund.

M. Rivers made a motion to accept and approve the budget as proposed. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

4.2 Calendar Funds Received

The calendar was printed before Thanksgiving and it looks great.

4.3 Freja Park Brochure

New brochures need to be ordered. R. Parlee suggested adding the town ordinance information. B. Cataldo will contact the printer for pricing.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2023 Calendar Sales, Ads & Distribution Update

Sixteen commercial advertisers participated. Calendars need to be distributed to the Town Hall, Bentley Library and various businesses in town. R. Parlee asked for the members' help in distributing calendars. P. Van Dine offered to update a central PDF document as members Email him information.

A. Bicknell offered to visit the businesses who owe payment for advertisement and he will drop off a complimentary calendar to each.

5.2 Tabling Opportunity at Cropley's on December 10th from 10-2 p.m.

B. Cataldo will take photos with Santa. R. Parlee and M. Rivers will attend and table. The BCC will sell calendars and offer the recycling challenge.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate up to \$20.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase candy canes to be used as prizes for participants in the recycling challenge. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

5.3 Miniature Bottle Surcharge Program Funds

M. Rivers attended the "Talking Trash" seminar at the CACIWC conference which is where he learned of this program. The funds are distributed to towns for cleanup and other environmental activities.

J. Laughman asked why this concerns the commission. P. Van Dine noted that the funds could be used for park cleanup. J. Rupert said that the State had issued checks to the local towns. P. Van Dine offered to ask the Finance Department how the funds were accounted for.

A. Bicknell suggested that funds could be used to advertise about not throwing garbage everywhere.

R. Parlee also said that the funds might be used for a "No Littering" sign at the Nathan Hale Greenway parking lot.

5.4 Winter Trails Day on 1/21 and Earth Day '23

Winter Trails Day will be held on January 21, 2023. R. Parlee suggested Herrick Park or Heritage Farm as potential locations.

Earth Day activities will be held on April 22, 2023. Josh Hull has been hired as an intern for the 4 towns (Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield and Tolland) initiative to promote the Route 44 corridor. He is interested in participating and helping promote the Earth Day festivities.

On February 25, 2023, a Town Winterfest celebration will be held in Bolton at the Heritage Farm.

5.5 Outreach - Matt

A unique domain name for the commission had been previously suggested. The "Constant Contact" platform seems like a better option as the town already uses that service. This would enable the sharing of contact information. M. Rivers will contact Kathy McCavanagh for more information.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Results of Winter Faire

A. Bicknell said that it was a fun day, and it was busy in the afternoon even though it was rainy. Nine calendars were sold. People took the recycling challenge. There were several people who were interested in possibly joining the BCC meetings and attending events.

6.2 Bolton Greater Together Community Grant

P. Van Dine received an Email this morning stating that grant proposals are being reviewed and recipients should be notified by year end.

6.3 Mohegan Trail Project & BNSP Kiosk

Two more water bars have been installed and should help control erosion. John Bolduc recently had a work party on the Hop River Trail in Vernon. R. Parlee asked him about holding a work party in Freja Park to clean out the water bars. Mr. Bolduc was interested in helping out.

The kiosk in the parking lot to the tunnel has no mention of BNSP. Another kiosk will have a map of the trail.

M. Rivers hiked the Mohegan Trail today and he noticed several green marker ribbons. R. Parlee said that these might be on private property.

6.4 Stream Temperature Monitoring Update & ExStik II pH/Conductivity Meter

The lost monitor was recovered in French Brook and was swapped out for a new one.

P. Van Dine received a report from Pat Young on the conductivity results. He is reviewing the information and will report back to the commission.

R. Parlee received a request from Meghan Lally to send pictures of the RBV sites.

6.4 FBL, BLWCA and SRWP Reports

FBL- P. Van Dine reported that there was not a quorum in November. A special meeting will be held tomorrow evening.

BLWCA- The next meeting will be held on December 14, 2022.

SRWP- M. Rivers noted that a five year strategic plan has been released. He mentioned several bullet points of the plan. The next meeting will be held on December 21, 2022.

7.0 Correspondence

R. Parlee shared a map of the 117-acre Summers Property which now has a conservation easement with the Old Growth Forest Network.

8.0 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.

9.0 Adjournment

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2023 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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Financial Action items

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate up to \$20.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase candy canes to be used as prizes for participants in the recycling challenge at Cropley's.
P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.