

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (joined the meeting at 7:22 p.m.), Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of January 5, 2023 Regular Meeting

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:1. B. Cataldo abstained.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine noted that funds are available for seminar attendance and water sample testing.

4.1 Budget Proposal Results

Results are pending.

4.2 Outstanding Calendar Funds

R. Parlee noted that a check from one advertiser is pending. The Finance Department is researching with assistance from R. Parlee.

4.3 Freja Brochure Printing Re-appropriation

P. Van Dine made a motion to rescind January's motion for the Freja Park brochure expenditure (\$89.00 from the General Supplies Account). J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$89.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to Hedges and Hedges for printing of the Freja Park brochure. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

4.4 Vernal Pool Brochure Printing Estimate

The estimated cost to print 100 brochures is \$59.00.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate no more than \$65.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for the printing of 100 Vernal Pool brochures. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2023 Calendar Sales & Distribution Update (& two new adds for '24)

J. Laughman contacted Fish Family Farm and they have promised two advertisements for the 2024 calendar. One will be for Fish Family Farm and one will be for D.W. Fish Realty. The contact information is sandrafish15@gmail.com.

Calendars are still available for sale at several locations.

5.2 Comment on Tunnel Lighting to CT DEEP

R. Parlee received an Email from John Bolduc of the Hop River Trails Alliance providing contact information for comments from the BCC regarding lighting ideas in the tunnel. David Buckley from CTDEEP can be contacted with suggestions. Suggestions from R. Parlee include soft white LED lighting, lighting during daylight hours only and motion sensors.

A. Bicknell made a motion that the BCC accept R. Parlee's lighting suggestions. J. Laughman seconded with the caveat that R. Parlee send the suggestions to David Buckley at the CTDEEP. The motion passed 4:1:0. P. Van Dine voted against the motion.

5.3 Vernal Pools Day, Earth Day, Kids to Parks Day & Trails Day

Vernal Pools Day

Vernal Pools Day will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at a time to be determined. The Nathan Hale Greenway was suggested as a location. Hank Gruner may be able to attend. P. Van Dine suggested forwarding vernal pool temperature data to Mr. Gruner.

Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22, 2023. The Four Town economic effort wants to advertise the BCC Earth Day event and the Bolton Rec Dept wants to promote the Earth Day Fairy House building event. Earth Day T-shirts cost \$7.95 each. The cost will be \$177.00 for twenty assorted sizes. Design options were reviewed and the turtle design was chosen.

P. Van Dine requested a copy of the Sales Order from R. Parlee.

P. Van Dine made a motion that the Treasurer will execute the sales order for Earth Day T-shirts. The funds, not to exceed \$195.00, will be taken from the Conservation Activity Fund. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Kids to Parks Day

Kids to Parks Day will be held on May 20, 2023. Ms. Crane from the Bolton Recreation Department asked R. Parlee what the BCC plans were. She would like to rent a bounce house to go along with the BCC hike at Herrick Park. P. Van Dine is opposed to having a bounce house due to COVID concerns.

Trails Day

Trails Day is held on the first weekend in June. The Connecticut Forest and Parks Association is asking for details of the BCC plans. The BCC hike is usually held on the Nathan Hale Greenway with special guest Matt Largess. R. Parlee suggested hiking in the old growth forest on the east side of Box Mountain. Parking would be available at the commuter lot.

5.4 Latest Open Space Map and Additional Data

R. Parlee received a map of open space in Bolton from Gwen Marrion. Ken Geisler from the Nature Conservancy put the map together. P. Van Dine requested Mr. Geisler's contact information so that he can see about receiving this map in a GIS format. The map could be used as a base layer to add information such as Riffle Bio assessment locations, stream temperature monitoring sites, Native American history, trails, etc.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Calendar Photo Requests - Brenda

B. Cataldo received a request from Patrice Carson asking to use two BCC photo contest photos for the Four Town Economic Development brochure. One of the photos did not have the photographers name attached. There was discussion about whether or not that photo can be used by someone other than the BCC without the photographer's permission. B. Cataldo said that as long as the photographer's name is on the photo, there is not a need for a copyright notation. As a solution, Ms. Carson has selected a different photo.

6.2 Outreach-Matt

R. Parlee send M. Rivers copies of the signup sheets from recent events so that he can update the contact database.

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

R. Parlee would like to go to Freja Park and put a monitor in the inlet to Notch Pond. P. Van Dine stated that he received a detailed report from Pat Young about the stream temperature monitoring with the SRWP. He will follow up with her to discuss.

6.4 FBL, BLWCA and SRWP Reports

FBL-The FBL was pleased to receive the membership check from the BCC. Jason Seacat has been appointed president of the FBL. The lake drawdown is being discussed. There was discussion about submitting a 319 grant but it is a lot of work in a small timeframe. The FBL won a grant from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. P. Van Dine will be attending a presentation for all of the winners at the Bentley Memorial Library.

BLWCA-R. Parlee noted that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday. They will be discussing a study about water level management around the Atlantic White Cedar.

CACIWC-Legislative issues are a concern, both good and bad. R. Parlee is working with others on a bill to set up a wetlands task force that would require the CTDEEP to complete Model

Regulations, wetlands commissioners to have training, increased staff at CT DEEP and vernal pool language included in regulations.

SRWP-No report.

7.0 Correspondence

R. Parlee had an Email exchange with Gwen Marrion about access to the Nathan Hale Greenway. She was asking the BCC to write a letter in support of a grant application that would provide parking access uphill from Munson's off Route 6. P. Van Dine said the BCC should communicate to the BOS that they are totally in favor of having an improved entrance to the trail head to the NHG but cannot support a plan that they have not seen details of yet.

P. Van Dine made a motion stating that the BCC is totally in favor of improved access and parking at the Nathan Hale Greenway trailhead but a more significant study needs to be made about ways to use the existing parking area in a safe and maintainable way. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Sending a map of a suggested access alternative was also agreed upon.

R. Parlee will forward his draft letter to the BOS to P. Van Dine for his review.

Peer review study by Michael Kellett and Susan Masino about the process in which forests are managed. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2022.1073677/full>

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 5:0:0.

9.0 Adjournment

A, Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6, 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

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