

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo (joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.), Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of March 6, 2023, Regular Meeting

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

3.0 Public Comment: R. Parlee went to Upper Bolton Lake to meet with Michael Carlo and a staff member from Eversource to discuss the installation of an osprey nesting platform. On his way out, he met a birder who said that Freja Park is very popular for birding due to the varied ecosystems there. R. Parlee saw an osprey catch a sunfish while he was there.

R. Parlee said that Ray Hardy will hold a program at Bentley Memorial Library in May about Squaw's cave.

A. Bicknell saw his first hummingbird of the season today.

4.0 Financial Report

R. Parlee shared the financial report online.

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

4.1 NCCD Seedling Sale Order

An invoice is needed for payment.

4.2 Additional Stream Temperature TIDBIT

P. Van Dine has received the tidbit and payment has been made. R. Parlee asked for volunteers to install the new stream temperature tidbit in the vernal pool within the Nathan Hale Greenway.

4.3 Tee-shirt Reimbursement

Reimbursement has been received.

P. Van Dine made a motion to transfer up to \$250.00 from the Professional Educational Services Account 53200 to the Other Payroll Account 51610 to cover the clerk's salary for the remainder of the fiscal year. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Notch Pond Beavers and Culverts

Notch Pond Beavers- Bike Walk Bolton sent R. Parlee a draft of a proposed letter to be sent to David Buckley from the CT DEEP regarding beaver activity on the east side of Notch Pond. They are proposing the installation of a "beaver deceiver" pipe that will allow the beavers to remain in the area while ensuring that the pond doesn't threaten the adjacent driveway and that the pond remains in its natural state. The Bolton Land Trust successfully installed one on their property at the Blackledge Marsh.

R. Parlee will draft a letter along with Jim Adams to send to Mr. Buckley at the CT DEEP.

Culverts-Bike Walk Bolton also asked for BCC support concerning trash going into Notch Pond. Barbara Amodio has spoken to the personnel at the DOT lot in Bolton with no success. A fence may need to be installed outside of the culvert. Jim Adams feels that this was a design miss on the part of the DOT when the bike path was installed along Notch Pond.

P. Van Dine said that the culverts could also be screened to keep trash from going into the pond.

The BCC members agreed to have R. Parlee ask Jim Rupert to write a letter regarding this matter to the CT DOT on behalf of Bike Walk Bolton.

5.2 NRI – Mapping Latest Open Space Parcel Map with 490 Layer

NRI (Natural Resource Inventory) - R. Parlee provided P. Van Dine with a zip drive of extensive mapping information. He will go through the information and send the final map to the BCC members. Vernal pool identification was done by Ed Pawlak in 1998. P. Van Dine feels that there are more vernal pools than were identified on Mr. Pawlak's survey as new methods are being used for identification.

P. Van Dine noted that POCD requirements have changed since the last time one was produced nearly ten years ago. J. Rupert noted that towns can amend their POCD's as opposed to creating brand new ones. P. Van Dine feels that it makes a lot of sense to review and amend the previous reports. R. Parlee wants to verify what the 2025 POCD for the Town of Bolton will look like and if it will be a revision or if a consultant be hired to produce a new one. P. Van Dine noted that the P&Z Commission was responsible for the developing the last POCD that was then submitted to the BOS for approval.

Open Space Parcel Map - R. Parlee spoke with Patrice Carson about obtaining GPS coordinates of 490 parcels so that they can be mapped. Ms. Carson didn't think that anyone in town could do that as the information comes from CRCOG (Capital Region Council of Governments). P. Van Dine said that a special program needs to be used to produce the correct document. He can go to CRCOG maps and print out a section but it is cumbersome. The CRCOG meta data language

would be helpful. R. Parlee will reach out to CRCOG to find out how to get the meta data for the Town of Bolton. P. Van Dine offered his help.

5.3 Earth Day Results (4/22), Kids to Parks Day (5/20) & Trails Day (6/3)

Earth Day – B. Cataldo reported that a good time was had by all. Three children and their parents participated in the Fairy House building contest. Two trees were planted. Seedlings were distributed to the participants and the remainder were given to Bike Walk Bolton who was holding an event that day. Marty Aligata from Connecticut Notable Trees was the special guest. He measured a “wolf” hemlock that may be over 150 years old. M. Rivers displayed tote bags that he repurposed from seed bags and a bowl that was made from magazine pages.

Kids to Parks Day – To be held at Herrick Park on May 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. R. Parlee and A. Bicknell will lead a hike on the Bates Trail.

Trails Day – The 2023 hike will be similar to last year with an emphasis on proforestation, the vernal pool and the upcoming salamander survey. Participants should meet at Munson’s upper parking lot at 10:00 a.m. CT Forest and Parks asked for the names of hike leaders-A. Bicknell and P. Van Dine along with R. Parlee

5.4 Photo Contest – Plan “Special” Meeting

The deadline is May 8, 2023 at midnight. Only a few submissions have been received as of yet. R. Parlee will try to submit press releases to the Hartford Courant and the Journal Inquirer to generate interest. The photos will need to be put together for BCC review. R. Parlee suggested and the Commission agreed to hold a special meeting for that purpose on May 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Prizes will be distributed to the winners starting at 5:30 p.m. on May 30, 2023.

R. Parlee brought up the possibility of revising the rules in 2024.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Salamander Survey in June by Hank Gruner

R. Parlee asked Mr. Gruner about whether or not he would like to receive compensation for conducting the salamander survey. R. Parlee used Hank Gruner’s book to try to identify a baby turtle that someone showed him on a trail.

6.2 MS-4 Deadline/Comments

The MS-4 is posted on the Bolton town website. P. Van Dine has not had a chance to review this yet.

6.3 SRWP Report & ExStik II pH/Conductivity Meter

P. Van Dine will reach out to the Scorsos. J. Laughman will try to get in touch with the science teacher at Bolton High. The first use of the conductivity meter will be on the Scorso property if they agree. M. Rivers will report on SRWP at the June meeting.

6.4 Freja Park Workparty Results – Town Work and Kiosk

R. Parlee reported that he and A. Bicknell were at Freja Park a few days before the Earth Day celebration picking up trash. ATV tracks are all over the park and A. Bicknell reported that instead of going over the bridge, they went over the embankment and into Notch Pond. A sign was posted by the CFPA (Connecticut Forest and Park Association) prohibiting bikes was pulled down but it has been re-posted. R. Parlee and B. Cataldo painted stencils over the graffiti on the jersey barriers and the trash cans. R. Parlee wants to put up a sign near the kiosk and the tunnel parking area with proper legal language prohibiting graffiti and noting the penalties related to that. He will work with the resident trooper. B. Cataldo also helped with the kiosk log book, adding laminated maps, brochures and documents. The water bars will need to be cleaned out at some point.

6.5 FBL, BLWCA, OGFN and CACIWC Reports

FBL - P. Van Dine reported that they discussed how they would go forward with subcommittees. The project to monitor cyanobacteria that was funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is proceeding. Equipment has been ordered and monitoring could start as early as this week. The Libraries Love Lakes program is being worked on this year in Vernon and probably Bolton.

BLWCA - R. Parlee said that they had a very productive meeting discussing the preservation of land around upper Bolton Lake. Representatives attended from Joshua's Trust and the Northern CT Land Trust. They plan to have a meeting with the CT DEEP about preserving the Atlantic White Cedar in upper Bolton Lake. They will kayak there with Bill Moorhead from CT DEEP.

OGFN (Old Growth Forest Network) - R. Parlee asked if everyone read the press release. A hike and ceremony was held at Valley Falls and the view from the top was very beautiful and colorful. The Webster Preserve, Echo Ridge and the 114 acre Box Mountain Forest in Vernon and Bolton are now inducted into the Old Growth Forest Network.

CACIWC - R. Parlee noted that they did not have a quorum at the last meeting but they have two new potential members to serve as alternates.

7.0 Correspondence

2022-MS4 Annual Report

Support Letter Request from Bike Walk Bolton regarding trash in Notch Pond culvert

Support Letter Request from Bike Walk Bolton regarding beavers

Updated Photo Contest Prizes

Press Release, map and photo from Old Growth Forest Induction Ceremony

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

J. Laughman 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

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 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

P. Van Dine made a motion to transfer up to \$250.00 from the Professional Educational Services Account 53200 to the Other Payroll Account 51610 to cover the clerk's salary for the rest of the fiscal year. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.