

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, and Matt Rivers

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of July 6, 2023, Regular Meeting

Under 6.4 FBL in the last sentence, add a comma after “there was no quorum” and strike the word mainly.

Under 7.0 Correspondence in the last sentence, add a hyphen between 3 and years

Under 9.0 Adjournment add a comma after August 7, 2023

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 Notch Pond Water Analysis Payment to Phoenix Environmental Laboratories

R. Parlee noted that P. Van Dine is looking into whether this payment should be applied to the last fiscal year budget or this year’s budget.

5.0 New Business

5.1 NEPARC 2023, Sharing the Landscape Conference

R. Parlee attended the NEPARC (Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) conference that was held at Wesleyan University. After the panel discussion, R. Parlee spoke with the facilitator who also served on the Mansfield Conservation Commission, Juan Sanchez and Hank Gruner and Michael Klemens, a herpetologist. This conference opened up a lot of questions. The panel included a developer who was conscious of environmental concerns and favored a pre-application meeting with land use commissions.

5.2 Salamander Survey by Hank Gruner

On July 6, 2023, R. Parlee and A. Bicknell were at the headwaters of the Hop River where they identified two dusky salamanders and placed the newly acquired tidbit in the stream.

On July 26, 2023, Mr. Gruner again was joined by R. Parlee and A. Bicknell and they identified six dusky salamanders and four two-lined salamanders and they relocated the active tidbit to the vernal pool.

On August 4, 2023, the vernal pool in Bolton Notch State Park was the highest that R. Parlee and A. Bicknell have ever seen, especially at the southern end. R. Parlee was able to find and retrieve the tidbit that was tied to the rock and he downloaded the data so that P. Van Dine can update his records.

5.3 NRI-Mapping

R. Parlee shared two maps online. The first was a map of core forest put together by CLEAR (Center for Land Use Education and Research). The second was a map of Conservation Focus Areas put together by The Capital Region Plan of Conservation and Development. R. Parlee and P. Van Dine plan to learn QGIS for mapping purposes.

5.4 Election of Officers

P. Van Dine offered to be Vice Chair and/or Treasurer for another term.

M. Rivers made a motion to nominate P. Van Dine as Treasurer. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to elect P. Van Dine as Treasurer of the BCC for the upcoming term. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to nominate P. Van Dine as Vice Chair. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

M. Rivers made a motion to elect P. Van Dine as Vice Chair of the BCC for the upcoming term. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

M. Rivers made a motion to nominate R. Parlee as Chair. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to elect R. Parlee as Chair of the BCC for the upcoming term. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 BHS Student Volunteer Opportunities

This was tabled until the next meeting. There is a line of communication in place with the science teacher at Bolton High. She is waiting for school to be back in session.

6.2 Notch Pond Litter from Culverts, Beavers, and Water Analysis Results

Notch Pond Litter – P. Van Dine and R. Parlee are trying to schedule a meeting with Pam Sawyer and Jim Rupert to discuss ways to remedy the litter problem in the culverts.

Beavers – There have been no signs of the beavers. We’re not sure if they have moved on, been trapped illegally or are not visible when the commission members have been looking for them.

Notch Pond Water Analysis Results – R. Parlee noted that the results are nice to see. P. Van Dine had explained that when your well water is tested, there are parameters. He is researching to see if there are parameters for ponds. Eric Thomas at CT DEEP or the CT Federation of Lakes may be able to provide parameters.

6.3 Stream Temperature Monitoring

The correspondence regarding the salamander survey included the temperature monitoring data. Tidbits are in place in Bolton Notch State Park and the Nathan Hale Greenway. P. Van Dine will share the current locations of all hobos at the September meeting.

6.4 CACIWC Report

R. Parlee asked what topics the commission members would like to have discussed at the upcoming CACIWC meeting.

R. Parlee is interested in vernal pool conservation and encouraging conservation commissions to conduct Natural Resource Inventories that include Vernal Pool surveys.

A. Bicknell is interested in getting the public more involved in conservation and making the public aware of what conservation commissions do.

A Director of The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association may be the keynote speaker.

The CACIWC conference will be held on November 11, 2023, at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in Bristol.

7.0 Correspondence

<https://clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape/ct-forestfrag/> Core Forests

CCROG Conservation Focus Areas

NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Letter Re: Notch Hydraulic Study by GM2 Associates

M. Rivers feels that the 10-foot elevated boardwalk would be expensive. Trex or a similar material would be more durable and cost effective. Leaching into surrounding waterways could be an issue. A reinforced trail would be the lowest impact but the most durable.

A. Bicknell questioned if an elevated boardwalk would qualify as a project for bank erosion and if there is grant money available.

R. Parlee said that more information is needed as to what materials are proposed and more mapping is needed to see where they intend to install the boardwalk. R. Parlee shared this info with Bike Walk Bolton.

Stream Salamander Survey & Temperature Monitoring Results for July and August 2023

Letter to CTDEEP (08072023) Re: NHG Public Access

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

M. Rivers made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

9.0 Adjournment

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. and may be held at the Bolton Town Hall.

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

None