

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo (joined the meeting at 7:06 via Zoom), Matt Rivers and Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

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

2.0 Minutes Review of August 5, 2024, Regular Meeting

Amendment-Under 5.2, add “to” in the last paragraph between M. Rivers and obtain.

M. Rivers made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 3:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 End of Fiscal Year Report:

P. Van Dine shared the report with the commission members. The report was successfully reconciled with the Finance Department.

There was discussion about the payroll budget and the possibility of needing additional funds to compensate the clerk if a special meeting is held. This topic will be revisited in December.

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

4.2 BLT, CLCC & CACIWC Membership

The BLT and CACIWC memberships have been paid.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees account for membership to the CLCC. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

If the BCC is tabling for the CACIWC meeting, one BCC member would be able to attend for \$35.00.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2025 Calendar Planning – Monthly/Cover Photo Selection – Brenda

Brenda has selected 18 potential photos for the calendar pages and one for the cover. R. Parlee brought up the idea of adding natural events to the calendar i.e. salamander crossings, bird

migrations, etc. Brenda noted that there is already limited space in the calendar squares for people to make notes. R. Parlee will compile a list of BCC events to present at the next meeting for discussion.

The page vs. the envelope for donations was discussed. It is more costly to insert the envelopes.

The BCC QR code will be included in the calendar.

Advertisements will have to be solicited. M. Rivers asked if donations could be made electronically. P. Van Dine noted that the FBL is able to accept electronic donations. The finance Department would have to approve electronic donations to the BCC. R. Parlee will research how to set up a QR code donation option and how to track QR code usage at the park kiosks.

5.2 Stream Temperature Monitoring Data – Peter

R. Parlee asked P. Van Dine to prepare graphs of 3-4 years of historic data. Mr. Scorso and Mr. Giglio are interested in seeing the results from the brooks that run through their respective properties. P. Van Dine has yet to submit the BCC stream temperature data. The CT DEEP is particular about the information that they receive.

5.3 2024 RBV & 2023 Results

See: 2023 RBV Program Report (ctdeepwatermonitoring.github.io)

R. Parlee will contact the town to reserve the Herrick Park lodge for the 2024 RBV to be held on October 27, 2024. The alternate location will be B. Cataldo's house. Bolton High will be contacted for volunteers. New collection sites will be discussed at the October meeting.

Due to rain, only Baker Brook was tested in 2023.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Connectivity Trail through Heritage Farm

The BOS has a subcommittee for this initiative. The BCC concern from the last meeting was how to negotiate a bike path safely through the Heritage Farm parking lot. R. Parlee will reach out to the Town Engineer regarding this concern. A. Bicknell asked about locating the bike path between the barn and the parking lot so it wouldn't have to cross the parking lot. Discussion ensued.

R. Parlee will ask Jim Rupert what he and Patrice Carson learned from CRCOG about traffic issues in the Notch.

In other discussion, there is a town-owned lot on the south side of Stony Road that may be using for parking for the Nathan Hale Greenway.

6.2 Calibration of ExStik II Conductivity and Mapping NRI with GIS Meta Data – Peter

P. Van Dine noted that Eric Thomas said that the BCC should work with Pat Young regarding data collection. P. Van Dine wants to include the BCC data in the SRWP report and to find out

how to collect data that they will find acceptable. R. Parlee asked P. Van Dine to piggyback on Rod's Email to Pat Young to find out how the BCC can work with them.

R. Parlee will bring the physical parcel map to meetings to update the NRI.

6.3 Outreach and New Town E-Mail – Matt

R. Parlee has been in contact with the town IT staff person regarding his Bolton Email account.

M. Rivers asked what the new Email address is for the BCC.

Peak Foliage day is scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2024. R. Parlee suggested a hike from Bolton Commuter Lot to the Risley Reservoir to include the Box Mountain old growth forest.

6.4 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports

FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake) – P. Van Dine reported that the CT DEEP has been non-responsive to their requests. On September 14, 2024, representatives from the FBL and local legislators have been invited to their summer social event at Indian Notch Park.

BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) –

R. Parlee noted that there are two new members. The October 29, 2024, meeting at the NCCD will include special guest Ed Pawlak, a Wetlands Professional Scientist who will discuss Vernal Pool Conservation.

SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership) – M. Rivers was unable to attend the last meeting. Macroinvertebrate (RBV) training will be held on September 7, 2024.

CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) –

R. Parlee noted the lack of CT DEEP staffing. One of the CACIWC Legal Workshops planned for the Annual Meeting on November 16th will cover the exemption or “As of Right” issue.

7.0 Correspondence

Japanese knotweed is now flowering, and it is extremely hard to eradicate. R. Parlee read that acid from lemons can be used with some success with a ratio of two parts lemon juice to one part water. P. Van Dine read that pachysandra can choke it out as well.

Email from Casey Carini that R. Parlee read regarding willow trees and their capability to absorb large quantities of water. They are very useful for erosion control.

<https://today.uconn.edu/2024/09/fast-growing-and-versatile-uconn-researcher-is-working-to-plant-more-willows/>

P. Van Dine shared a NY Times article about solar farms, noting that they are helpful in attracting pollinators and small animals.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/05/climate/solar-power-pollinators-wildlife.html?smid=em-share>

R. Parlee read from an article about storm water and climate change. Existing culverts and dams may not be sufficient for this “new normal”.

A. Bicknell noted that St. Johnsbury, VT had 4 inches of rain in a 6 hour time frame which caused a lot of damage.

8.0 Adjournment

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall and/or Virtual utilizing Zoom.

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 \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees account for membership to the CLCC. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.