

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting to be held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (participated 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 7:06 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of December 4, 2023, Regular Meeting

The following amendments were suggested.

5.1 Correct the spelling of macroinvertebrates

Page 2, 1st paragraph, correct the spelling of Tankerhoosen

5.2 Change the word “move” to “appropriate”

6.3 Last sentence-insert Annual before CACIWC meeting

7.0 Last sentence-Amend to “M. Rivers recommended volunteer Rangers instead and offered to attend.

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

R. Parlee shared hard copies of the Financial Report. A separate report was presented for calendar related expenses and receipts.

M. Rivers made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine submitted the budget proposal for 2024-25 to the Board of Finance.

4.1 Payments to CACIWC, Georgina’s, Hedges & Hedges and Rec. Dept.

Payments have been made to CACIWC, Hedges & Hedges and the Rec. Dept. Payment is pending for Georgina’s.

4.2 Consider Duffle for Kick Nets (50.00 Amazon)

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up to \$60.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase a new kick net duffle bag. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

R. Parlee or P. Van Dine will contact the Town to order from Amazon.

4.3 Freja Park Brochures (59.00)

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up to \$75.00 from the General Supplies Account to purchase 100 Freja Park brochures. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

M. Rivers mentioned that it would be handy to have a QR code included in brochures. And the brochure information should be available on the Town website.

R. Parlee will follow up with the town to have a recycling app available on the Town website

4.4 Membership to CLCC, BLT and FBL

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$50.00 from the Dues and Fees account for membership to BLT and CLCC. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for membership to FBL. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

R. Parlee suggested publishing a Bolton open space map. R. Parlee will reach out to Erik Snowden for assistance.

5.0 New Business

5.1 ATV/Dirtbike Enforcement Meeting with Sgt. Johnston on January 10th

R. Parlee and M. Rivers will be attending this meeting along with Gwen Marrion.

What can the CT DEEP and EnCon police do to increase awareness of illegal ATV activity and how should the public safely report instances? P. Van Dine noted that at the boat launches, there is a list of rules of how to report illegal activities.

M. Rivers noted that distance markers would be helpful in noting locations of incidents. A grant has been received and signs are on order. A. Bicknell asked what the number is to report incidences-(860)424-3333.

5.2 Winter Trails Day on Saturday, January 13, 2024 – Rain Date January 14, 2024

Meet at the commuter parking lot at 10:00 a.m. It will be a nice easy walk through Freja Park to Valley Falls. M. Rivers will send out the hike details to prior participants. R. Parlee suggested Constant Contact as an Email option in the future.

M. Rivers talked about having a section of BCC activities in the Bolton Bulletin. A. Bicknell noted that the kiosks could also be used for advertising upcoming events. He would be interested in posting laminated event reminders.

R. Parlee raised the idea of BCC members having “business cards”.

5.3 Review and Approve Draft Annual Report for FY 22-23

R. Parlee distributed hard copies of the Draft Annual Report and he read excerpts. A few minor revisions were suggested. M. Rivers made a motion to adopt the annual report as amended. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

5.4 Photo Contest Prizes

R. Parlee noted that Cropley’s has generously offered to donate \$200.00 to be used for photo contest prizes.

Calendar photos do not have to be photo contest entries.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 14th Annual Town-wide Calendar

Calendars need to be dropped off at several locations and cash needs to be picked up.

A. Bicknell, R. Parlee and M. Rivers will follow up.

6.2 Stream Temperature/Vernal Pool Monitoring Update & Equipment Inventory

P. Van Dine has updated this information. P. Van Dine will contact Cliff Scorso to see if he has noticed any changes in the characteristics of French Brook. R. Parlee suggested asking if a drone could be flown over his property. Alternatively, CT DEEP will have Lidar technology available.

6.3 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports

FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake) – P. Van Dine put together a final report on the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving grant.

BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) –The next meeting is January 22, 2024. They will be discussing the newly installed osprey nesting platform.

SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership) – M. Rivers shared information from Pat Young regarding their RBVs. They mostly hold these in Marlborough and Colchester. They look for sections of streams that have rocks between golf ball and melon size. And for stream temperature monitoring, they establish a baseline in summer and test every week for ten weeks unless there is thunder and lightning. M. Rivers will try to attend the next meeting.

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

R. Parlee noted that all of the slides and conference information from the Annual meeting are available on the CACIWC website.

7.0 Correspondence

2024-25 Budget Proposal

November 5, 2023, Certified Mail from Michaud Law Group – The Town signed off on this letter but the BCC was not notified of its receipt

R. Parlee attended a Town sponsored Freedom of Information workshop through Zoom

February 16, 2024 CT DEEP meeting via Zoom regarding watersheds

Hartford Courant article from January 1st regarding device to collect hydrophylla.

From Journal Inquirer- report sightings of Fishers to the CTDEEP. Fishers may be listed as a threatened species. M. Rivers will look into if trapping is allowed and if it is, why are they still allowing trapping if considered threatened. A. Bicknell noted that they are chicken thieves.

CACIWC Conference Workshop Slides

At the last BOS meeting they discussed a new proposed grant application that would construct a parking area for the Nathan Hale Greenway. R. Parlee shared the BCC proposal with the Town Engineer and the Commission. Since the Conservation Commission must conduct research into the utilization and possible utilization of land areas in Bolton it's entirely within their purview.

Meeting Guidelines-Rod distributed a hard copy at the meeting.

Clerk's Invoice

9.0 Adjournment

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Bolton Town Hall and virtually 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.

Originals Printed on 100% Recycled Paper – Earth Day and Every Day



Financial Action items

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up to \$60.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase a new kick net duffle bag. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up to \$75.00 from the General Supplies Account to purchase 100 Freja Park brochures. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$50.00 from the Dues and Fees account for membership to BLT and CLCC. M Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for membership to FBL. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.