

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting to be held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (present 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 7:09 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of January 4, 2024, Regular Meeting

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

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine emailed the Financial Report to all BCC members and it was shared at the meeting.

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

4.1 Duffle, Brochure & Memberships

Invoices are necessary to make payments for the duffle and brochure. R. Parlee presented the Amazon page showing the intended duffel purchase. B. Cataldo will follow up on the brochure invoice. R. Parlee will follow up on completing membership applications so that the membership dues can be processed.

4.2 Conservation Activity Fund

R. Parlee asked about receiving interest on the funds in that account. P. Van Dine noted that the town receives the interest proceeds on all accounts.

4.3 14th Annual Town-wide Calendar Revenue & Supply

P. Van Dine presented a separate report showing the calendar expenditures and revenue details.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Results of Meeting with CTDEEP EnCon

R. Parlee met with Gwen Marrion and two CTDEEP EnCon officers. The officers recommended taking photographs rather than confronting perpetrators whenever an incident occurs. The CTDEEP phone number (860-424-3333) was shared at the meeting. Ms. Marrion will report on this meeting at the next BOS meeting.

Reports and photographs of the September bike/motorcycle incident were shared with the BCC members.

5.2 Reschedule Vernal Pools Day to 3/17 or 3/24

R. Parlee suggested rescheduling from March 23, 2024, due to a conflict with the CLCC Conference. Vernal Pools Day will be rescheduled to March 17, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at Nathan Hale Greenway. Parking will be at the upper Munson's lot pending their permission. Hank Gruner or Ed Pawlak were suggested as special guests. R. Parlee will reach out to them.

5.3 CLCC Conference on 3/23

R. Parlee will be representing CACIWC, the statewide organization at the CLCC conference to be held at Wesleyan University starting at 9:00 a.m. A. Bicknell and M. Rivers are interested in attending.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$225.00 from the Professional Educational Services account for one or two BCC members to attend the CLCC conference. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

5.4 Photo Contest Outreach from Members

R. Parlee noted that more outreach needs to be done by BCC members to promote the contest. R. Parlee will Email the contest flyer to all BCC members. A. Bicknell suggested posting flyers on the boat launch kiosks. P. Van Dine suggested posting flyers at calendar sale locations.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Winter Trails Day Results and Outreach

Winter Trails Day Results-A. Bicknell, R. Parlee and John Bolduc participated.

Outreach-M. Rivers is researching development of a QR code to be posted on kiosks. The QR code would be linked to the Town website. He will reach out to Kathy McCavanagh and Suellen Kamara regarding this. He is also continuing to research Constant Contact. The Rec Director (Stephanie Crane) is using this functionality and M. Rivers will reach out to her.

R. Parlee asked if M. Rivers will send out a flyer to prior event participants for Vernal Pools Day.

The Rec Director asked if the BCC would participate in Kids to Parks Day on May 18, 2024. The location may change from Herrick Park to Indian Notch Park. Water sampling was a suggested event. M. Rivers suggested further explanation of why conservation activities are important.

6.2 Stream Temperature/Vernal Pool Monitoring Update - There were no new updates.

6.3 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports

FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake) – P. Van Dine reported that there was no Fall forum. Robert Courtman is the proposed speaker for the Spring forum. He will speak about cyanobacteria and about the hydrilla that has been spotted in Middle Bolton Lake.

BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) – R. Parlee noted that the last meeting was held in January. A letter was sent to CTDEEP and the Town of Vernon Town Engineer asking if they had an Emergency Action Plan regarding the Hatch Hill dam. A grant will be investigated to fund the flying of a commercial drone.

SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership) – M. Rivers presented the 2023 annual report. He will look into participating in stream temperature monitoring training.

CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) – R. Parlee reported that the next annual meeting and conference will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at the same location as 2023. 2024 is the 50th anniversary of CACIWC.

7.0 Correspondence

R. Parlee would like to have an open space map present at each meeting to identify locations in town.

R. Parlee noted that it is unclear whether brown paper bags are accepted in recycling to bundle papers. He is awaiting a response from Sherill Baldwin of CTDEEP.

R. Parlee shared the addendum to the BCC annual report along with successes and items that never gained traction. He asked the commission members to consider two items that should be pursued again. This will be added to the March agenda.

Regarding access to the Nathan Hale Greenway, Gwen Marrion made a proposal at the last BOS meeting to add a parking area of nine spots uphill from Munson's. There was another suggestion to have parallel parking on South Road. A discussion will be held at the BOS meeting tomorrow night. The BCC's proposal has not been addressed.

There was an article in the Hartford Courant regarding the ban of single use Styrofoam products and polystyrene. Legislation has been introduced by Senator Blumenthal and will be proposed this session in CT.

An event on Invasive Plants with special guest, Rose Hiskes in Stafford, Connecticut will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 22, 2024, presented by the Stafford Conservation Commission.

8.0 Adjournment

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 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.

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Financial Action items

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$225.00 from the Professional Educational Services account for one or two BCC members to attend the CLCC conference. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.