

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Brenda Cataldo (present via Zoom), Matt Rivers (present via Zoom) and Peter Van Dine (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of February 5, 2024, Regular Meeting

5.2 in the last line, change “were” to “was”

M. Rivers made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed 2:0:1. B. Cataldo abstained.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine shared the financial report at the meeting.

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the financial report with correction to the March 4, 2024, balance. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion that the Chairman of the Bolton Conservation Commission may, with the concurrence of at least one other member or alternate, approve the expenditure of no more than \$150.00 of Commission funds without formal approval of the Commission. Furthermore, such expenditure shall be subject to discussion at the next regular Commission meeting. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

4.1 RBV Duffle, Freja Brochure & Memberships

R. Parlee shared a picture of the duffle that has been received.

The Freja brochure printing has been delayed. B. Cataldo will be adding a QR code to the brochure and will amend the directions. M. Rivers and R. Parlee will be linking the QR code to kiosk locations in town.

4.2 CLCC Conference

A. Bicknell, R. Parlee and M. Rivers will be attending.

A. Bicknell made a motion to reimburse R. Parlee \$170.00 (the cost of 2 people attending the CLCC conference) from the Professional Educational Services Account. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion to rescind the authorization to join the CLCC this year and instead authorize membership to the FBL by appropriating \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees Account. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

4.3 Maps from Action Blueprint

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$90.00 from the General Supplies Account and \$10.00 from CAF (Conservation Activity Fund) to produce four colored 3' by 5' maps at \$25.00 each (2 Open Space maps and 2 Watershed maps). A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0. The Town BoS have an account with Action Blueprint.

4.4 T-Shirt Order

P. Van Dine made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$157.00 from the CAF for the purchase of 20 Earth Day T-Shirts. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0. R. Parlee will be reimbursed for this purchase.

4.5 NCCD Order

M. Rivers made a motion to appropriate \$311.00 from the CAF for the purchase of the following plants, trees, plugs and one bag of compost from the NCCD for photo contest prizes:

Beauty of Nature and Open Space

1st prize \$200 Cropley Gift Card

2nd prize Blueberry (set of 3) \$45

3rd prize One Canaan Fir (\$12 for 5) & One Milkweed Plug (10 for \$32)

Wildlife in Bolton

1st prize Pagoda Dogwood \$60

2nd Mountain Laurel \$22

3rd One Canaan Fir (\$12 for 5) & One Milkweed Plug (10 for \$32)

Examples Green Living & Farming

1st prize American Basswood \$60

2nd prize Grape \$30

3rd prize One Canaan Fir (\$12 for 5) & One Milkweed Plug (10 for \$32)

People in the Environment

1st prize Blue Haw \$40

2nd prize Franklinia \$30

3rd prize One Canaan Fir (\$12 for 5) & One Milkweed Plug (10 for \$32)

A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

4.6 Calendar Revenue & Conservation Activity Fund

P. Van Dine shared a report of the calendar proceeds and expenses.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Photo Contest and Outreach from Members

R. Parlee shared laminated photo contest flyers with the BCC members. These are to be shared at various locations in town and on social media. Approximately 7-8 photos have been received. R. Parlee will send out a press release to the Journal Inquirer and the Hartford Courant. M. Rivers suggested the Community Voice Channel. He will follow up on this.

5.2 Vernal Pools Day Special Guest on March 17, 2024

Ed Pawlak will be the special guest. The walk will start at 1:00 p.m. at the Nathan Hale Greenway. Parking will be available in the rear of the upper Munson's parking lot. The walk will be held rain or shine.

5.3 Library Program on April 18, 2024

Brian Popovich from All American Waste will be leading this recycling workshop at the library at 6:30 p.m. on April 18, 2024.

A. Bicknell made a motion to hold a recycling workshop at the library at 6:30 on April 18, 2024.
B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

5.4 Earth Day Celebration and Special Guest on April 20, 2024

Marge Winters, president of the Simsbury Land Trust and chair of the Simsbury Conservation Commission, will be leading a walk and talk on horticulture. The walk will start at 1:00 p.m. B. Cataldo will select prizes for the Fairy House building contest. The rain date will be April 21, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up to \$75.00 from the CAF to purchase prizes for the Fairy House building contest. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Stream Temperature/Vernal Pool Monitoring Update

P. Van Dine noted that several hobsos need to be swapped out. He will send out an Email to the BCC members requesting volunteers. Two people are required for each swap.

6.2 Mapping GIS Meta Data with NRI

P. Van Dine obtained meta data from Ken Geisler. He was able to download the data to his program. He now has the Town of Bolton parcel maps. R. Parlee will provide Peter with the contact information for the new State of CT GIS coordinator to assist P. Van Dine with downloading the data.

6.3 FY 2023-24 Non-Traction Items

R. Parlee asked the commission members to look at these items. Choices were discussed and will be finalized at next month's meeting.

6.4 Outreach

M. Rivers is waiting responses from Suellen Kamara regarding Constant Contact and from Stephanie Crane regarding Kids to Parks Day at Indian Notch Park. He will send out information to prior walk participants this week about Vernal Pools Day. He will also set up a participation template.

6.3 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports

FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake) – P. Van Dine reported that the Spring forum will be held on April 17, 2024 at 7:00 at Camp Newhoca. The special guest is Dr. Robert Kortmann. He will be speaking about invasive aquatic plants and cyanobacteria. Representative Tim Ackert has also been invited.

BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) –R. Parlee found the last meeting to be very productive. The concerns about the difference in water levels between Middle and Upper Lake may be a non-issue. The trash rack at the Hatch Hill dam needs to be cleaned. The CTDEEP and Representative Tim Ackert should be contacted regarding this. R. Parlee has agreed to be Chair and Ryan Goad has agreed to be Secretary of the BLWCA for another two years.

SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership) – M. Rivers reported that a 96 acre parcel in East Haddam may be purchased. Also, new trails have been blazed on a 57 acre parcel in Marlborough. MS4 reports are being produced. Open space mapping continues.

CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) – R. Parlee reported that testimony was sent to the General Assembly in lieu of holding a meeting.

7.0 Correspondence

R. Parlee reached out to Kyle Hopkins of the Manchester Water Co and MLCT re: ATV'S. He hopes to set up a meeting.

8.0 Adjournment

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 1, 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.



Financial Action items

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