

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom
Adding data to the parcel map will occur from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (present via Zoom) and Brenda Cataldo (present via Zoom)

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of May 6, 2024, Regular Meeting

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

The financial report was shared at the meeting and via Email prior to the meeting.

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

4.1 End of Fiscal Year Report

The end of the year fiscal report will be prepared at the beginning of July.

4.2 Transfer of Commission Funds to Clerk's Payroll Account

The transfer is complete.

4.3 FBL and BLT Memberships

The memberships have been paid. R. Parlee suggested that the BCC join the CLCC at the beginning of the fiscal year.

4.3 Appropriation for Tidbit or Hobo

Extra hobos are in stock. A tidbit purchase will be considered later in the year.

4.4 Earth Day Fairy House Contest Prizes

The invoice has been submitted. B. Cataldo is awaiting payment.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Photo Contest Results, Judging and Prize Distribution

Examples of Green Living & Farming

1st Place - "Atop of the Hill", Kristy Manning, American Basswood (3-gallon)

2nd Place - "Farm in the Off-Season", William Penn, Grape 'Reliance' (2-gallon)

3rd Place - "Plentiful Harvest", Dorothy Reiss, Earth Day T-shirt & One potted Canaan Fir

Beauty of Nature & Open Space

1st Place - "Life with No Filter", Dani Kennedy, \$200 Cropley's Gift Card

2nd Place - "Bolton Heritage Farm barn", Elizabeth Waters, Blueberry 'Highbush' (set of 3)

3rd Place - "The wall of a thousand icicles", John Bolduc, Earth Day T-shirt & One potted Canaan Fir

Wildlife in Bolton

1st Place - "Polyphemus Moth", Sylvia Ounpuu, Pagoda Dogwood (3-gallon)

2nd Place - "Command Post", Gayle Klim, Mountain Laurel (1 -gallon)

3rd Place - "Just a little Bunny Business", Barbara Amodio, Earth Day T-shirt & One potted Canaan Fir

People in the Environment

1st Place - "Paddling on Lower Bolton Lake", Richard Jewell, Blue Haw "Raisinette" (3-gallon)

2nd Place - "Eagle Scout Project", Dan, Jim & Shepard rebuild the bridge-Old Bailey Road, Scott Livingston, Franklinian (2-gallon)

3rd Place - "Quiet Travels", Casey Carini, Earth Day T-shirt & One potted Canaan Fir

R. Parlee thanked B. Cataldo for all her work in organizing the photos and tallying the judging. There were over 90 submissions. R. Parlee and A. Bicknell delivered most of the prizes. B. Cataldo will put together a poster of photos and she will thank the photo contest participants. There were many photos that will be suitable for the 2025 calendar.

5.2 HABITAT Newsletter Link

<https://www.caciwc.org/library/habitat/Habitat%20V36%20N1%202024%20Spring%20web.pdf>

Hard copies of the Habitat Newsletter are no longer available. R. Parlee suggested that the BCC members utilize the link and read Susan Masino's article.

5.3 Swapping of Stream Temperature Monitors Update

R. Parlee and A. Bicknell went to Bolton Pond Brook and spoke to Mr. Giglio whose bridge moved downstream two years ago and the hobo was lost. After that, a braided fishing line and rebar was used to anchor the hobo which was also covered with rocks. The line snapped and that hobo was also lost.

The property owner and the BCC suggested having rebar installed with a mallet and chaining the hobo to the side of the rebar.

R. Parlee and A. Bicknell retrieved the hobo in the Nathan Hale Greenway. The tidbit was lifted out of the vernal pool, the data was downloaded and it was reinserted.

R. Parlee and M. Rivers will get together on Wednesday to swap temperature monitors. Freja, French Brook and Baker Brook will be next locations. A. Bicknell will be available June 17th, 18th or 19th at 3:30 p.m. for the swapping of monitors.

5.4 SRWP Preserves List from SRWP Intern, Caroline Stanton

Ms. Stanton has an Excel spreadsheet of preserves within the SRWP. This discussion will be tabled until next month.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Results of Kids to Parks Day on May 18th

R. Parlee reported that it was a well attended event at Indian Notch Park. There were games, a bounce house and R. Parlee gave a presentation on how a watershed can act like a bathtub. Next year the event may coincide with the Regatta.

6.2 Results of Trails Day on June 1st

R. Parlee thought it was the best Trails Day ever. The hike was to the old growth forest. Dwarf chestnut oaks were a big hit. Matt Largess was the special guest and there were 23 people in attendance including a forester and a Yale ecologist.

6.3 Calibration of ExStik II Conductivity and Mapping NRI with GIS Meta Data

R. Parlee brought the map that needs to be filled in with data. The following is a draft list of suggested mapping.

BCC NRI List (draft by RP)

- 1) Vernal Pools and Potential Vernal Pools
- 2) RBV sites (incl ones from the past)
- 3) Stream Temp Monitoring sites
- 4) Sensitive Areas derived from Natural Diversity Database
- 5) Headwaters and Coldwater Stream Habitat
- 6) Salamander Stream Survey
- 7) Core Forests and Rare Forests such as Box MT
- 8) Old Growth & Notable Trees
- 9) Wildlife Sightings & Corridors
- 10) Historic/Archaeological Sites
- 11) Scenic Viewsheds with Photo Contest site specific photos
- 12) Watershed Boundaries and Divides
- 13) Public Trails
- 14) Impacted Wetlands
- 15) Point Source Pollution including light
- 16) Consistent Littering Location
- 17) Highest Parcel Evaluation based on Matrix

- 18) Active Farms incl Organic
- 19) Grasslands
- 20) Former Clearcuts
- 21) Active or Former Timber Harvests
- 22) Monitored Lakes & Ponds
- 23) Wetlands worth noting
- 23) Aquifer Protection Area
- 23) Recreational Resources
- 23) Open Space (by definition)
- 24) Land Trust property, Town Property & Water Co Property
- 25) Deer Crossing (sign locations)
- 26) Storm Drains
- 23) Culverts
- 24) Flooding Prone Areas
- 24) Erosion Control
- 25) Erosion Prone Areas
- 26) Rain Garden Locations
- 27) Cemeteries
- 28) Hunting Areas
- 29) Trapping Areas
- 30) Greenways such as Nathan Hale

Discussion about the ExStik II will be tabled until next month.

6.4 Outreach – Matt

K. McCavanagh is looking into setting up a new dedicated Email address for the BCC.

6.5 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports

FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake) – The picnic has been postponed until September.

BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) – R. Parlee connected with a woman who may be interested in joining the alliance. Cameron Covill, the district representative and Bolton Wetlands Agent, has moved on to a new job.

SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership) – Tabled until the next meeting

CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) – R. Parlee plans to attend the Willington Conservation Commission meeting when they meet again in September. This is part of his reaching out to other conservation commissions in his capacity as county representative for Tolland County.

7.0 Correspondence

Booklet from the Old Growth Forest Network

R. Parlee submitted his letter of intent to continue being a member of the BCC. B. Cataldo will submit her letter before June 10, 2024.

“Neighbors” paper. R. Parlee feels that this would be a good publication to advertise events in. Their contact information is P.O Box 430, Ashford, CT 06278, 860-933-3376
neighborspaper@yahoo.com

Email from K. McCavanagh about a site walk planned for a proposed walking trail at Heritage Farm.

8.0 Adjournment

B. Cataldo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 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.

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Financial Action items

None