

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

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (present via Zoom), Brenda Cataldo, Matt Rivers (present via Zoom) and Peter Van Dine

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**2.0 Minutes Review of Thursday, September 5, 2024, Regular Meeting**

Corrections: **6.1**, last paragraph, correct “using” to “used”

**6.3**, last paragraph, capitalize “Day”

**7.0** “4 inches of rain” should read “8 inches of rain”

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**3.0 Public Comment:** None

**4.0 Financial Report**

P. Van Dine reported on the financial activity that took place since the last BCC meeting.

**4.1 CLCC Membership**

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for membership to the CLCC. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine has the information to process the membership.

**4.2 CACIWC Annual Conference Exhibiting & Attendance**

R. Parlee noted that because the BCC is a member of CACIWC and if the BCC is tabling, one person can attend the annual conference for \$35.00. The additional regular membership fee is \$85.00. A. Bicknell and R. Parlee are available to attend.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$120.00 from the Professional Educational Training account for R. Parlee and A. Bicknell to attend the annual CACIWC conference. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine has the registration forms.

**4.3 Winter Faire Early Bird Registration by 10/25**

The Winter Faire will be held on December 7, 2024, from 9:00-2:00. The early bird registration fee is \$30.00. The BCC will be tabling at this event. P. Van Dine has the registration form.

M. Rivers made a motion to appropriate up to \$30.00 from the Dues and Fees account for Early Bird Winter Faire registration. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Rod will obtain an invoice from Stephanie Crane of the Rec Dept.

#### **4.4 RBV Disinfection of Field Equipment Materials**

R. Parlee noted that there is a new disinfection protocol in place for supplies being used in the field. Some bacteria are being spread from stream to stream. The waders, gloves and nets used during the RBV will need to be cleaned with a 10% bleach solution at Herrick Park in between each stream sampling. A few items are necessary. Examples are two large plastic bins, bleach, two brushes and a pump sprayer. Receipts will be necessary for reimbursement of any items that need to be purchased.

Sarah Davies is the new biology teacher at Bolton High School. She and her students may be interested in attending the RBV and weekly stream temperature testing may be a possibility with the students in the future.

Judy Lodi will need to be contacted for permission to access her property along the Blackledge River and will likely appreciate the results.

#### **4.5 Pizza for RBV Volunteers**

A receipt is needed from Georgina's for the pizza that will be purchased for the RBV participants. The BCC has a Town of Bolton account. B. Cataldo will get a head count.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 2025 Calendar Planning – Photo Selection, Ads, QR Code & PO Request**

B. Cataldo shared the monthly photo selections with the Commission members that were present at Town Hall.

B. Cataldo will contact the printer to get a purchase order. 125 calendars will be printed in the initial phase with the potential of more being printed as the need arises.

R. Parlee will have his calendar letter and collage ready before November 1, 2024. B. Cataldo offered to contact the prior ad purchasers. She will also send the advertising form to all BCC members. B. Cataldo will also share a calendar cover for promotional purposes and will produce a calendar "on-sale" flyer to display at locations in town. B. Cataldo plans to have the calendar to the printer by November 1, 2024.

R. Parlee would like the QR code of the BCC website to appear on the letter page of the calendar and will look into having the recycling flyer printed (150 copies) and will contact the Board of Selectmen and Planning & Zoning commission for meeting dates.

P. Van Dine made a motion that a purchase order be produced for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 for calendar printing from the Conservation Activity Fund. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

## **5.2 Review BCC Meeting Dates, Events, Calendar Dates & 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest for 2025**

The following BCC meeting dates are proposed for 2025:

Monday, January 6, 2025  
Monday, February 3, 2025  
Monday, March 3, 2025  
Monday, April 7, 2025  
Monday, May 5, 2025  
Monday, June 2, 2025  
Monday, July 7, 2025  
Monday, August 4, 2025  
**Thursday, September 4, 2025**  
Monday, October 6, 2025  
**Thursday, November 6, 2025**  
Monday, December 1, 2025

Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, virtual via Zoom or hybrid.

P. Van Dine made a motion to approve the above BCC meeting dates for 2025. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

BCC Events for 2025 are proposed as follows:

Winter Trails Day January 11, 2025  
Vernal Pools Day March 22, 2025  
Earth Day Celebration April 26, 2025  
Photo Contest Deadline May 5, 2025  
Kids to Parks Day May 17, 2025  
Trails Day June 7, 2025  
Peak Foliage Hike October 18, 2025  
22<sup>nd</sup> Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers October 25, 2025

B. Cataldo made a motion to approve the above BCC event dates as submitted. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Dates will also be added to the calendar for scrap metal pickup, meeting dates of other boards and commissions in town, town sponsored events, full moon dates, other celestial dates and any other dates deemed appropriate.

A. Bicknell made a motion to open the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest for 2025. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0. B. Cataldo agreed to update the Photo Contest Flyer.

### **5.3 Stream Temperature Monitoring, Logging & Retrieval Data – Peter**

P. Van Dine shared the historical temperature graph from Railroad Brook during the meeting. The graph will be included in the calendar with a few tweaks.

### **5.4 New CTDEEP RBV Disinfection Protocol for Scientific Collectors**

Discussed under 4.4.

### **5.5 21<sup>st</sup> Annual RBV on 10/27 – Site Selections and Submission Form RBV Site Submission Form (arcgis.com)**

Railroad Brook and Blackledge River are the most promising locations.

Baker Brook, French Brook and Bolton Pond Brook and the headwater of the Hop River will be considered as time allows.

A. Bicknell asked if reporting should be done to note locations that aren't finding any macroinvertebrates. R. Parlee will check with CTDEEP.

Four BCC members will be attending the RBV which is scheduled from 10:00 to 4:00. P. Van Dine will arrive at 11:00.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Peak Foliage Hike on 10/19**

The Peak Foliage Hike will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. from the Bolton Commuter Lot along the Hop River State Park Trail to Valley Falls Park and back. BCC members will discuss the diversity of the trees along the way in the rare Bolton Notch/Valley Falls watershed. The trailhead properties are associated with the Old Growth Forest Network, the Northern CT Land Trust and Bolton Notch State Park. Commission members will point out trailhead access to the Box Mountain Forest, Echo Ridge, Webster Preserve, the Tulip Tree Trail and the Mohegan Trail.

M. Rivers made a motion that the BCC lead a hike for Peak Foliage Day along the Hop River Trail on October 19, 2024, leading to the trailheads. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

### **6.2 Connectivity Trail through Heritage Farm & NHG Parking on Stony Drive**

R. Parlee has not heard any feedback about the BCC concerns about the trail design that has the bike path heading through the parking lot. A public hearing will be held at a later date. Arlene Fiano is the chair of the Heritage Farm Commission and R. Parlee has contacted her. CCROG is involved with the trail design.

The NHG parking lot will be on Stony Drive. Construction will begin this winter on the south side of Stony Road.

### **6.3 Collaboration with SRWP**

Pat Young is open to working with the BCC and sharing data.

P. Van Dine noted that the next step is to find an organization to do weekly temperature testing from May to September on the Blackledge River and/or French Brook.

M. Rivers reported that the lack of people power is a detriment. Perhaps high school students with the help of Sarah Davies could participate as part of their community service requirement. Rod thinks that the BCC could utilize the ExStik to gather data. P. Van Dine noted that training is essential on the use of the ExStik. The SRWP expertise would be helpful.

### **6.4 Outreach and New Town Email**

Access to the new town email is still a work in progress. M. Rivers and R. Parlee will meet with the IT person at the workstation in Bolton Town Hall for assistance.

R. Parlee will send M. Rivers the information regarding the Peak Foliage Hike and the RBV so that he can contact prior participants.

### **6.5 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports**

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake)** – P. Van Dine noted that they had a very successful social gathering on September 14<sup>th</sup>. As there is no speaker available for the Fall Forum, a business meeting will be held instead. Beth Lawrence has committed to speaking in the Spring. P. Van Dine, for FBL, submitted a grant proposal for \$4,975.00 to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for the purchase of new equipment.

**BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance)** – R. Parlee reported that the last meeting was held on August 29, 2024. The Town of Coventry wetlands agent attended the meeting. The new member of the BLWCA is a new employee at the NCCD and is also the Bolton Wetlands Agent. The Fall Forum will be held on October 28, 2024, at the NCCD in Vernon with Wetlands Professional Scientist, Ed Pawlak as the guest speaker. He will discuss the efforts of Vernal Pool Conservation.

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership)** – M. Rivers will be attending the next meeting scheduled for October 16, 2024.

**CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions)** – R. Parlee may be ordering Conservation Commission hats that will be sold at the annual meeting.

### **7.0 Correspondence**

Journal Inquirer article about shortage of wildlife rehabilitators

Hartford Courant article about hydrilla on the Connecticut River

### **8.0 Adjournment**

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 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**

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for membership to the CLCC. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$120.00 from the Professional Educational Training account for R. Parlee and A. Bicknell to attend the annual CACIWC conference. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

M. Rivers made a motion to appropriate up to \$30.00 from the Dues and Fees account for Early Bird Winter Faire registration. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion that a purchase order be produced for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 for calendar printing from the Conservation Activity Fund. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.