

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 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 (present via Zoom) and Matt Rivers

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of Monday, October 7, 2024, Regular Meeting

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

3.0 Public Comment: No members of the public were present but Sam Bahre had previously expressed an interest in joining the BCC.

4.0 Financial Report

R. Parlee shared the Financial Report online.

4.1 CLCC Membership

The membership has been submitted and accepted.

4.2 Pizza for RBV Volunteers

The receipt has been submitted for reimbursement.

4.3 Calendar PO Request

An invoice has been received from Hedges and Hedges indicating a cost of \$9.77 per calendar.

4.4 FY 2025-26 Budget

P. Van Dine prepared a preliminary budget and sent it to all BCC members. The details will be discussed at the December meeting.

Capital expenditures were discussed. M. Rivers suggested taking an inventory of the BCC field equipment to see what items are needed or need to be replaced. R. Parlee will coordinate an inventory with P. Van Dine.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2025 Calendar Planning – Photo Selection, Ads, Selling Locations, QR Codes, Print Date, etc.

B. Cataldo will attempt to have the calendar ready to go to printing by Monday, November 11, 2024. R. Parlee would like calendars available to take to the CACIWC annual conference on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

R. Parlee has visited several locations to sell ad space. B. Cataldo has places to visit tomorrow. M. Rivers will visit England Hardware. A. Bicknell will visit Able Coil and Cropley's.

B. Cataldo added 3 QR Codes to the calendar: The Freja Park brochure, the BCC webpage and the CT DEEP recycling wizard.

Brian Popovich from USA Recycling is supplying 150 recycling double-sided inserts to be included in the calendar. As requested, they are printed on recycled paper.

5.2 BoS Meeting Dates and other Added Dates including Cropley's Tabling and Winter Faire

The BoS meeting dates will likely be excluded from the calendar as they are unconfirmed for 2025.

Cropley's tabling will be on Sunday, December 8, 2024.

The Winter Faire will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at the Bolton Center School.

5.3 Stream Temperature Monitoring, Logging & Data Retrieval Time Frame

B. Cataldo presented the graph that P. Van Dine prepared for the calendar. The Bolton logo will be added.

Discussion will be held next month on how to preserve consistent data over time.

5.4 Proposed 100-space Parking Lot and Tunnel Parking Area Safety Concerns

R. Parlee noted that Governor Lamont has committed 70 million dollars for State Park system improvements. BNSP has received an estimated cost of \$75,000 for a 100 space parking lot, an expansion of 70 spaces. John Bolduc, President of the Hop River Alliance noted that there is minimal space for expansion and the turn into the existing parking area is currently not safe. M. Rivers feels that the expansion is a bad idea due to traffic and potential environmental impact.

M. Rivers and R. Parlee proposed writing a letter as a Commission listing concerns about the above project. Perhaps the Hop River Trail Alliance could add their input. R. Parlee will draft a letter in conjunction with John Bolduc.

M Rivers made a motion that the BCC draft a letter to the BoS, the CT DEEP Commissioner and the State Parks Department noting opposition about this project. This will be in conjunction with the Hop River Trail Alliance. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

5.5 State Land up for Auction (See 7.0 Correspondence Link)

The CT Dot recommended a parcel to be released for sale. Discussion ensued regarding the potential of parking access to the Nathan Hale Greenway, but the terrain access is somewhat steep. England Hardware may have plans to submit a bid. The Board of Selectmen voted to pass on submitting a bid.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Results Peak Foliage Hike on 10/19

R. Parlee noted that it was a successful hike with nine participants. There was a new set of box steps installed at Valley Falls with a very fine, white stone dust base.

6.2 Results of 21st Annual RBV on 10/27

Railroad Brook was the only location with riffles. Two “most-wanted” macroinvertebrates were found. R. Parlee submitted the data to the CT DEEP. Herrick Park continues to be a good central location for examining specimens. The 2025 RBV will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2024.

6.3 Connectivity Trail through Heritage Park & NHG Parking on Stony Drive

A public hearing will be held in the future. The proposed bike path through the parking lot at the Heritage Farm continues to be a concern.

6.4 Collaboration with SRWP – Matt

M. Rivers reported that the last meeting was held by Zoom only. There is a wild and scenic designation planned. The Town should have received an invitation. M. Rivers will be including Pat Young on future BCC activities.

6.5 Outreach: Extension # at Town Hall, and New BCC Town E-Mail

The BCC is sharing a phone line (x 6110) with the Fire Marshall.

R. Parlee is meeting with IT next Wednesday at 9:00 to gain access to the workstation at Town Hall.

The new BCC Town E-Mail is Conservation@BoltonCT.gov

6.5 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports

FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake) –The floating island is visible on Lower Bolton Lake.

BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) – Ed Pawlak (Wetlands Professional Scientist) was the guest speaker at the last meeting and spoke on Vernal Pool Conservation. Ed Pawlak has a website: www.ctecosystems.com
His website has a Wetlands Area Research Tool.

SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership) – Discussed above.

CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) – R. Parlee ordered hats to be sold at the conference for \$25.00. Over 25 exhibitors will be present. Recycling specialist Sherrill Baldwin will be attending the conference.

7.0 Correspondence

<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/state-parks/restore-ct-state-parks>

<https://files.aptuitivcdn.com/EzoynNlyL2-1704/docs/boards/selectmen/2024/Agenda/BOS-Packet-11.5.24.pdf>

RBV Field Data Sheet and Photo

Budget Information and Letter from Jim Rupert

Map of Parcel being Auctioned from CT DOT

Email from Meghan Seremet regarding the withdrawal of the proposal of “Wunnee-Neetunah Cave” as the new name for the Bolton Cave. The name change did not receive support from the CT Native American Heritage Advisory Board. R. Parlee read from the letter during the meeting. R. Parlee spoke with Ray Hardy about this. A. Bicknell cited a book by Mathias Spiess that talked about the history of the cave.

Photo collage for the 2025 calendar

Farmers Almanac article “Around the House Plastics” www.Earth911.com

8.0 Adjournment

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 2, 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

None