

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held virtually utilizing Zoom only

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Brenda Cataldo and Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of November 7, 2024, Regular Meeting

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed 2:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained

3.0 Public Comment: No comments.

4.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine shared the November and December Treasurer Reports and the proposed budget worksheet for the next FY with the commission members prior to the meeting and R. Parlee shared them online during the meeting.

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for November. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for December. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

4.1 CLCC Membership

R. Parlee asked if this was a donation or a membership. P. Van Dine listed it as a donation in the Financial Report due to the constrictions of the form from the CLCC. It appears that \$100.00 was required for membership but the BCC only paid \$25.00. The donation/membership status will depend on the decision of the CLCC.

4.2 Pizza for RBV Volunteers

A request to pay has been submitted to the Finance Department.

4.3 Calendar PO Request

P. Van Dine has received the Purchase Order. A request to pay has been submitted to the Finance Department.

4.4 FY 2025-26 Budget

R. Parlee shared the letter from the Town and the budget proposal online.

The cost of five flash drives (approximately \$30.00) will be added to the General Supplies category. The cost of the Notch Pond water tests was also discussed. P. Van Dine feels that at least five tests at a total cost of \$900.00 are needed to have a baseline. R. Parlee noted that scientific rationale should be provided to the Town to support the testing.

R. Parlee suggested purchasing a weather station to be installed in the area of Bolton Lake to track rainfall and temperature. The cost would be approximately \$1,300.00. P. Van Dine noted that there are funds available for that purchase in the Activity Fund. P. Van Dine will have the budget proposal completed by the December 15, 2024 deadline.

P. Van Dine a motion to accept the amended budget worksheet for FY 2025-26 with the changes as noted above. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2025 Calendar Sales, Distribution, Donations, Photo Contest, etc.

R. Parlee noted that the calendar was printed on November 15, 2024. Calendars have been distributed to the usual sale locations. Preliminary discussion ensued about having retail locations buy the calendars outright for resale. Complementary calendars will be given to all sponsors.

The flyer for the Photo Contest has been sent to the Town Hall for distribution. The Photo Contest deadline is May 5, 2024.

5.2 Draft Letter Re: BNSP Parking Lot Expansion and Paving

R. Parlee noted that the State has appropriated \$75,000 for expanding the parking area by 100 spaces. He spoke with John Bolduc of the Hop River Alliance who will be attending their meeting on Thursday. P. Van Dine felt that the BCC should draft a letter to the CT DEEP independently from the Hop River Alliance with a cc: to the CT DOT and the Hop River Alliance. R. Parlee will draft a letter tomorrow noting the dangerous access and the environmental impact. He will send it to B. Cataldo and P. Van Dine for their review.

5.3 Winter Trails Day on January 11, 2025

Ray Hardy was suggested as a special guest to discuss how to track animals in the snow. Herrick Park was suggested as a location.

5.4 Inventory of BCC Items

R. Parlee shared the inventory online. P. Van Dine suggested including the location of items.

5.5 BCC Draft Annual Report for FY 2023-24

R. Parlee will be working on this.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Results CACIWC Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference on 11/16

A. Bicknell and R. Parlee attended. 26 exhibitors were present and 292 total people attended.

6.2 Results of 21st Annual RBV on 10/27

R. Parlee has been reaching out to Chloe Edwards of CT DEEP for a confirmation of accepting the voucher with the results but he has not received a reply.

6.3 Stream Temperature Monitoring – Logging and Data Retrieval

One of the hoboos was retrieved in mid-summer. Two years of data was missing. Data during the COVID period was overwritten and a monitor from CT DEEP was not activated properly. There are currently eight temperature monitors in the water. The drought conditions may produce interesting results.

6.4 Collaboration with SRWP – Matt

Tabled until the January meeting.

6.5 Outreach – Winter Faire (12/7) and Cropley’s Photos with Santa (12/8)

B. Cataldo will attend the Winter Faire with R. Parlee. B. Cataldo will be at Cropley’s from 9:30-2:00.

6.5 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports

FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake) – No report.

BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) – No meeting in November. The next meeting will be held on December 23, 2024.

SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership) – No report.

CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) – Discussed above in **6.1**.

7.0 Correspondence

Board of Selectmen discussion on establishing a “Right to Farm” ordinance

8.0 Adjournment

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2025, 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