

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held virtually utilizing Zoom only

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Matt Rivers and Peter Van Dine

Others Present: Kim Fofana, prospective BCC member

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 December 2, 2024, Regular Meeting

Under 5.1: Photo contest deadline should read May 5, 2025

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed 3:0:2. A. Bicknell and M. Rivers abstained.

3.0 Public Comment: K. Fofana proposed an education forum for Bolton Lake residents.

4.0 Financial Report

The Financial Report was reviewed. An invoice has not been received from Hedges & Hedges for the second printing of calendars and a payment from one of the advertisers is outstanding.

P. Van Dine made a motion to reimburse M. Rivers \$42.98 from the Supplies Account for the purchase of tools. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate up to \$40.00 from the Supplies Account for the purchase of seven flash drives to be purchased from Amazon by the Town of Bolton. These will be used to upload data from BCC members to the Town computer. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0. R. Parlee will communicate the purchase details to Kathy McCavanagh.

4.1 Weather Station on Bolton Lake

R. Parlee proposed the purchase of a weather station at the December meeting. He noted that there are many ways to monitor the health of the lakes and temperature would be another component of that monitoring.

M. Rivers questioned how the weather station would benefit the town and advance the goals of the BCC. And he questioned how the information would be made available to the public if public funds are used for the purchase.

A. Bicknell has considered installing a weather station at his location on the lake. He is in favor of seeing the information that would be available. He also noted that the temperature information could be made available on the BCC webpage.

P. Van Dine noted that the most important information from a weather station would be a record of local precipitation. Second to that would be air temperature, particularly at the time of precipitation. Atmospheric pressure and wind speed are also important data although wind speed would have to be monitored from several locations. He has not researched the specific station that R. Parlee has suggested. P. Van Dine noted that automated data logging would be essential.

The consensus of the BCC is that more research is needed to commit to a weather station that will be useful. P. Van Dine will do more research and will report on his findings at the February meeting.

K. Fofana has a weather station on her property. She showed the data monitor to the BCC members during the meeting. R. Parlee also has a weather station that he presented online.

R. Parlee mentioned an article in the January 6, 2025, Hartford Courant about the USA National Phenology Network in regards to forest temperature monitoring in Norfolk, Connecticut.

4.2 FY 2025-26 Budget

The town received the budget information before the deadline.

4.3 Professional & Technical Services

The town requested a drop in the budget but because of the proposed increase in monitoring of Bolton Notch Pond, the BCC had requested an increase for this category.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2025 Calendar Sales, Distribution, Donations, Scrap Metal P/U Dates

There has been one donation of \$2.00 so far this year. The scrap metal pickup dates have changed since the printing of the calendar. R. Parlee added an addendum flyer with the new dates to the unsold calendars at all locations and the information will be on the Town website. R. Parlee asked the commission members what their thoughts are about reducing the amount of dates on the calendar. B. Cataldo is agreeable to this. P. Van Dine suggested using a QR Code on the calendar to share important dates. A. Bicknell was in agreement with using a QR Code for date information. R. Parlee suggested a separate page for dates as an option.

5.2 Photo Contest Prizes

R. Parlee noted that Cropley's offered to donate two \$100.00 gift cards to the photo contest for first place prizes in the categories of Green Living and the Beauty of Open Space and Nature.

5.3 FY 23-24 Annual Report

R. Parlee shared the Annual Report with the BCC members.

5.4 Request for Composters being sold in Ellington

The BCC has sold over 200 Earth Machine composters over the years. The Town of Ellington recently sold composters. R. Parlee has reached out to the contact in Ellington for more information. R. Parlee asked M. Rivers to reach out to Michelle at <https://www.recyclingconnections.org/> to see if a deal can be made with another town to coordinate composter sales.

5.5 22nd Annual RBV on Saturday, October 25, 2025

Herrick Park Lodge has been confirmed as the location for the annual RBV scheduled for October 25, 2025.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Letter to CTDEEP Commissioner Re: BNSP Parking Lot Expansion & Paving

R. Parlee and P. Van Dine, representing the BCC, sent a letter to the CTDEEP and others regarding the BNSP Parking Lot Expansion & Paving. The BoS and Bike/Walk Bolton will be discussing this matter at their next meetings.

6.2 Winter Trails Day on January 11, 2025, at Herrick Park

A. Bicknell made a motion to hold Winter Trails Day on January 11, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Herrick Park. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

6.3 Inventory of BCC Items

The location of items will be added to the current inventory list.

6.4 Outreach – Results of Winter Faire and Cropley’s Photos with Santa

Both events were a success. The recycling challenge was appreciated by many people.

M. Rivers created a new Email address for the commission that he will be sharing with the BCC members. He has also set up a Google voice account to be able to send text messages to people who don’t utilize Email.

6.5 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports

FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake) – P. Van Dine noted that they are always looking for new members. A letter will be sent to the CTDOT from the heads of the four watershed towns putting the CTDOT on notice that they have not been responsive to requests. They have sent a grant proposal to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for new monitoring equipment. Jason Seacat, Chairman of FBL and the Vernon Conservation Commission, has requested a meeting with R. Parlee.

BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) – R. Parlee was impressed with the level of discussion that took place at the last meeting. Three attendees were BLWCA members and the others were special guests that filled the room.

SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership) – M. Rivers did not attend the December meeting but he read bullet points from the agenda. Hydrilla has been found in Holbrook Pond in Gilead.

CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) – No report.

7.0 Correspondence

Letter from the CLCC confirming the BCC's membership

The annual meeting of the league of conservation voters is being held tomorrow.

R. Parlee shared and the BCC approved a draft letter to Kristin Heckt, Superintendent of the Bolton Public Schools regarding the lack of recycling efforts at events being held at Bolton schools and elsewhere.

Pictures of damage in local parks and on trails that R. Parlee is working on with Dave Warner from the CFPA

R. Parlee contacted Chuck Higley from the CT DOT regarding a deer crossing sign that was down and is now missing on Bolton Center Road. Deer crossing signs are being removed throughout the State. R. Parlee will research where this new directive originated.

8.0 Adjournment

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 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

P. Van Dine made a motion to reimburse M. Rivers \$42.98 from the Supplies Account for the purchase of tools. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

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