

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (joined the meeting at 7:07 via Zoom), Brenda Cataldo (present via Zoom), 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 7:04 p.m.

**2.0 Minutes Review of January 6, 2025, Regular Meeting**

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**3.0 Public Comment:** K. Fofana is a member of Bike/Walk Bolton. They are trying to accomplish two things:

1. Institute traffic control measures on Vernon Road due to safety concerns. She has petitioned her neighbors.
2. Make the town more bike/pedestrian friendly (a “Complete Streets” initiative). R. Parlee suggested reaching out to other towns i.e. Andover and the Canton (Town Planner, Neil Pade) who have implemented this.

Bike/Walk Bolton will be meeting Wednesday evening.

**4.0 Financial Report**

P. Van Dine emailed the Financial Report to the BCC members and he reviewed it during the meeting. One calendar ad payment is outstanding.

M. Rivers made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

M. Rivers received reimbursement for tools he bought for the BCC. R. Parlee noted that tools can be stored in the basement of Town Hall. Access would need to be coordinated through the town. Tools can also be stored at BCC member’s homes. Easy access is important and adding tool locations to the inventory list is important.

**4.1 Weather Station on Bolton Lake funded with CAF – Peter Van Dine**

R. Parlee noted that the most important data to record is temperature and precipitation. P. Van Dine didn’t find a device that would measure melted snow or sleet and the device would need to have mechanical ability to empty itself. He found one that is Hobo compatible for \$550.00, the Onset RG3 HOBO data logging rain gauge. He wants to talk to the experts at Onset before

making such an expensive purchase. P. Van Dine hopes to have a proposal ready for the March meeting.

M. Rivers questioned if temperature and precipitation monitoring efforts would be duplicated with FBL or BLWCA. P. Van Dine replied “no” although he mentioned that a study was done with data from Brainard Field (the closest recording site at the time). Stream temperature data has never been correlated with rainfall data.

#### **4.2 FY 2025-26 Budget**

R. Parlee noted that results are pending.

#### **4.3 CLCC Conference**

R. Parlee noted that the price for the conference has increased by 15-20 percent. The early bird fee this year is \$110.00. R. Parlee and A. Bicknell would like to attend. The conference will be held on March 22, 2025.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$220.00 from the Professional and Education account for two BCC members to attend the CLCC conference on March 22, 2025. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Gwen Marrion is the new president of the CLCC.

#### **4.4 Flash Drives for Backing up and Sharing BCC Data**

Kathy McCavanagh questioned R. Parlee if the BCC really needs to purchase flash drives. P. Van Dine mentioned that there is a network security issue with flash drives being uploaded to a town computer. M. Rivers said it makes more sense to send attachments via Email. R. Parlee feels that many attachments would be too large. R. Parlee will follow up with the Town of Bolton IT person, Eric Larsen who had initially suggested using flash drives.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Recycling at Bolton Events and Composting Survey**

R. Parlee wants to move forward with a composting initiative. B. Cataldo and M. Rivers have been assigned the task of finding good products for Bolton. He spoke with the Town of Ellington Recycling Coordinator about municipal composting. R. Parlee spoke about the lack of recycling bins at Bolton town events and the Email that he sent to Kristin Heckt regarding this issue. John Butrymovich, Bolton’ Facilities Manager, responded in a letter stating that bins are supplied at every town event although R. Parlee has never seen one at the Winter Faire and other events.

When there are recycling bins, trash is sometimes placed in them. A. Bicknell said the only way to eliminate trash in the recycling bin is to have someone posted by each container. The recycling bin could be located near the BCC table at events where they are present. There is apparently a CT DEEP mandate that recycling containers are mandatory at events with over a certain number of people.

R. Parlee suggested a survey in town about recycling and composting. He will continue to seek more information from the Town of Ellington, wait for the language from the DEEP mandate and will contact Sherrill Baldwin from the CT DEEP.

### **5.2 Photo Contest Promo and Outreach**

This year is the 24<sup>th</sup> annual town wide photo contest. R. Parlee asked for ideas on how to promote this to solicit more photos. B. Cataldo, K. Fofana and M. Rivers offered to post information on the Facebook page “Everything Bolton”. R. Parlee suggested ads in the Journal Inquirer and in the Bolton Bulletin. He also offered to post previous photo submissions on Facebook with a newly designed flyer.

A. Bicknell suggested making the flyer catchier with larger fonts to highlight the salient points and less wording in general. The rules should be taken off of the flyer and accessed either with a QR code or a link to the town website. P. Van Dine suggested mentioning the prizes. A. Bicknell also suggested preparing a couple of versions of the flyer and including small photos from the calendar. B. Cataldo will rework the flyer and will send it to the BCC members.

### **5.3 Importance and Function of Deer Crossing Signs**

On State Route 533 (Cider Mill Road) there is a very popular wildlife (deer) crossing area. After a rollover vehicle accident occurred, R. Parlee learned that the CT COT is no longer replacing Deer Crossing signs on state roads. It is dangerous to not be informed of wildlife crossings. P. Van Dine feels that this is another mistake by the state. M. Rivers asked if the town could put up their own signs. P. Van Dine noted that the FBL put up signs about entering the Bolton Lakes Watershed on State and Town roads. Rod asked the CT DEEP liaison about the statistics of wildlife crashes at the last CACIWC meeting. Alan said that maybe salamander crossing should also be noted and B. Cataldo mentioned turtle crossings. The consensus of the BCC was that signs should be installed by the State or even the Town for safety reasons. R. Parlee will pursue this initiative with Jim Rupert and P. Van Dine will pursue it with FBL.

### **5.4 Vernal Pools Day on 3/22 and New NHG Parking Lot**

A. Bicknell made a motion to change the date of Vernal Pools Day to March 23, 2025. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The consensus of the BCC is to hike to the Vernal Pool behind the Bentley Library. Ed Pawlak may be invited.

The new NHG parking lot is on Stony Drive on the left heading to Route 6. It is not open yet.

### **5.5 Earth Day on 4/26, Kids to Parks Day on 5/17 and Trails Day on 6/7**

Earth Day will be held at Freja Park with the Fairy House contest and a mini bio-blitz. A. Bicknell was suggested as a guest speaker.

Kids to Parks Day will be held at Indian Notch Park. The regatta is not a sure thing for this year although the suggestion was made to ask Matt Largess to bring his sunfish if there is a regatta.

Trails Day will be held on the NHG.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

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

The town in general was very supportive of the BCC efforts and M. Rivers specifically thanked Jim Rupert for his support. R. Parlee thanked the Commission for writing such an effective and timely letter.

Matt feels that the proposed decking is important to safely parallel Railroad Brook. R. Parlee feels that runoff from the stream channeling from Hathaway's house will overtop the decking. Unintended over-management of Bolton Notch should be a major concern.

### **6.2 Results of Winter Trails Day at Herrick Park**

M. Rivers noted that the hike went well with twelve people in attendance. A. Bicknell suggested shorter introductory talks in general and less stops when it is cold. M. Rivers suggested that the lodge would be a nice place for an after hike discussion.

### **6.3 2025 Calendar Sales & Distribution**

R. Parlee noted that there are a few calendars remaining to be sold.

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

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake)** – No meeting in January

**BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance)** –Minutes from the January meeting were sent to all BCC members. Bylaws may be amended to allow “relatives” residing within the watershed to be members.

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership)** – No meeting in January

**CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions)** – There is one bill pending regarding the opposition to the sale of municipally owned open space.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

BLWCA meeting minutes from January 27, 2025

Collage showcasing 15 years of BCC calendars

Photos and link of an amazing video from the Old Growth Forest Network on how to ID old growth moist and dry forests, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1X60g2jfvE>

Image of the results of someone spray painting an open space rock out-cropping with white paint.

## **8.0 Adjournment**

Peter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Matt seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 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**

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$220.00 from the Professional and Education account for two BCC members to attend the CLCC conference on March 22, 2025. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.