

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Only

Members Present via Zoom: Chair Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Matt Rivers

Members Absent: Alternate Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and dedicated the meeting to Jane Goodall.

2.0 Minutes Review of September 4, 2025, Regular Meeting

A. Bicknell MOVED to APPROVE the August 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes. B. Cataldo SECONDED.

Discussion: The following changes were made to the meeting minutes:

- Add “in all categories” at the end of the third sentence under Item 5.1 to read “The Commission agreed to award \$100.00 gift cards as first-place prizes this year in all categories.”
- Correct “Box Mt Oak Grove” to “Box Mt Old Growth” in the first sentence of Item No. 5.4.
- Add the word “and” between Brendan and Daniel in the second paragraph of Item No. 6.3.

A Bicknell MOVED to APPROVE the August 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes as amended. B. Cataldo SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3:1 (M. Rivers Abstained).

3.0 Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

R. Parlee noted that a new potential member is expected to begin attending the Bolton Conservation Commission (BCC) meetings.

4.0 Financial Report:

4.1 CACIWC Annual Meeting (11/15) Early Bird Registration Form

The CACIWC Annual Meeting will be held at the Marriott in Cromwell on November 15, 2025. Due to limited capacity at the venue and the focus on commercial exhibits, the BCC will not have an exhibit this year. The meeting will include several cutting-edge workshops by peer-reviewed scientists. Registration forms and fees of \$85.00 per person will need to be submitted for R. Parlee and A. Bicknell to attend the meeting. R. Parlee reminded BCC members to submit their surveys on the Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan.

B. Cataldo MOVED to appropriate \$170.00 from the Professional Education and Training account for two members to attend the CACIWC Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference. A. Bicknell SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

4.2 Winter Faire Registration (12/6) & Tabling Event at Cropley's (12/7)

Stephanie Crane has secured a BCC table at the Winter Faire near the entrance. The table cost is \$20.00. All members, except M. Rivers, will be available for the Winter Faire.

B. Cataldo MOVED to appropriate \$20.00 from Other Professional Services for a table at the Winter Faire on December 6, 2025. M. Rivers SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

The Photo Shoot tabling opportunity with Santa will take place at Cropley's on December 7, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

4.3 RBV Pizza

The location of the Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV) event has been approved by the Town and will be held at Herrick Park on October 25, 2025. The BCC agreed to provide pizza for the volunteers.

A. Bicknell MOVED to appropriate up to \$50.00 out of General Supplies to provide pizza for the volunteers at the October 25, 2025 RBV event. B. Cataldo SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Annual Photo Contest– 25-year Milestone, New Flyer & Prizes

R. Parlee noted that the photo contest was initiated in 2000, and the first prizes were awarded in 2001, making this year a 25-year milestone. The calendars were first created in 2011 and the BCC agreed to highlight the 15-year milestone on the cover page.

A. Bicknell noted that he experienced technical issues with designing the flyer. R. Parlee suggested using Canva or Microsoft Co-Pilot and offered to assist with the design, noting that it needs to be completed by November 1st. B. Cataldo added that the flyer must be in landscape format. R. Parlee confirmed that \$100.00 gift cards will be provided as first prizes in all four categories for the photo contest.

5.2 2026 Calendar Publishing and New Ad Forms

B. Cataldo reminded the BCC that they agreed to exclude some town meeting dates from the calendar. She added that she is working on updating the ad form and securing as many sponsors as possible.

The Bolton Conservation Commission proposed the following meeting dates for 2026:

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • 1/5/2026 | • 7/6/2026 |
| • 2/2/2026 (Groundhog Day) | • 8/3/2026 |
| • 3/2/2026 | • 9/3/2026 (*Thursday) |
| • 4/6/2026 | • 10/5/2026 |
| • 5/4/2026 | • 11/5/2026 (*Thursday) |
| • 6/1/2026 | • 12/7/2026 |

*The September and November meetings will be held on a Thursday due to voting and holiday conflicts.

M. Rivers MOVED to ACCEPT the 2026 Bolton Conservation Commission Meeting Dates as proposed. A. Bicknell SECONDED.

Discussion: R. Parlee added that all of the meetings will be held at Town Hall and/or via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

R. Parlee noted that B. Cataldo sent the link to the 2026 calendar photos and stated that they are working together on the introduction letter and including celestial dates from the Farmer's Almanac. The members agreed to include the Peak Foliage Hike, Earth Day, and other notable BCC events and asked B. Cataldo to use her discretion in adding other events. R. Parlee requested the Peak Foliage Hike be held on a Sunday.

M. Rivers suggested moving some events to other months to lighten the schedule in October and November.

A Bicknell MOVED to authorize B. Cataldo to use her discretion to add event dates to the calendar. M. Rivers SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

5.3 Change Date of 10th Annual Peak Foliage Hike to 10/19/2025 at 1:00 p.m.

The date of the Peak Foliage Hike at Box Mt Old Growth Forest has been changed to Sunday, October 19, 2025. R. Parlee shared that there has been some criticism regarding the term “old growth,” which refers to anything between 100 and 130 years old, as it has been determined that the forests only contain one-tenth of one percent of old growth in the New England area. He added that Dr. Susan Masino is proposing that the term be changed to “old forest.” A. Bicknell noted his preference for keeping the current name.

R. Parlee explained that the hike will lead to a 117-acre parcel, known as the Box Mt Old Growth Forest, which is owned by Mark and Jamie Summers. He added that the property has been inducted into the Old Growth Forest network for preservation purposes, and Yale Forestry Ecologist Marlene Cole is calling for more studies on the unique trees and type of lichen in the area. R. Parlee noted that Matt Largess has been invited to participate.

A. Bicknell MOVED to change the date of the Peak Foliage Hike to Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. to Box Mt Old Growth Forest. M. Rivers SECONDED.

Discussion: R. Parlee recommended that the members wear their orange vests and bright colors.

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

5.4 Annual RBV (22nd) and Limited Hobo Swap, 10/25 from 10-4PM, Herrick Park Lodge Hike on 10/18

R. Parlee stated that the RBV event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on October 25, 2025 at the Herrick Park Lodge. He added that he will bring a bin and bleach to sterilize waders after each site visit. The group will visit Railroad Brook, the Scorsco property on French Brook, and the Giglio property at the end of Matt’s street. M. Rivers and R. Parlee will request access to the properties from the owners.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Potential Solar Project in Manchester on Lake Street

R. Parlee reported that the Manchester Conservation Commission has commented on a petition that was filed with the Connecticut Siting Council regarding the solar project. He added that the noise from the operation is expected to be minimal, and a seven-foot fence will be placed around the site to improve aesthetics and reduce glare. He will keep the BCC advised of any public hearings that may be scheduled.

6.2 Results of Freja Park Workparty (Plan Another)

A. Bicknell reported that a total of four water bars were cleaned out and two more were added. R. Parlee shared a photo of the water bars and noted that they are made of cedar. He recommended scheduling another workparty in November or December.

6.3 Composting in Bolton & Recycling at Common Gathering

R. Parlee noted that the composting workshop planned at the library will be moved to the Spring due to the busy Fall schedule. A. Bicknell suggested holding the workshop on April 7th or April 14th. R. Parlee

noted his preference for holding the event on April 14th and noted that Brendan and Daniel of All American Waste will need to be contacted.

R. Parlee reported that Stephanie Crane is working with John Butrymovich to obtain several recycling bins for the Winter Faire. The members discussed ways to encourage and collect data on proper recycling at events with the Recycling Challenge. The topic will appear on the next Agenda for further discussion prior to the meeting with the CT DEEP Recycling Coordinator on November 15th.

6.4 Beaver Solutions, LLC Free Assessment

R. Parlee noted that Beaver Solutions, LLC is not available on Fridays and requested alternative dates. A. Bicknell stated that he is available on October 13th, November 4th, or November 11th. R. Parlee will work on scheduling the assessment and will provide the date to Jim Adams and the BCC once it is scheduled.

7.0 Reports: Bike Walk Bolton, FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC

BWB: R. Parlee received an update from Kim Fofana stating that an engineering study has been approved for the intersection of Vernon and Quarry Roads. She also mentioned that BWB's request to present to the Planning and Zoning Commission has been denied. BWB members Elle King, Brian Aaronson, and James Perkins are planning to run for seats on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Education, respectively, to make the streets in Bolton safer. R. Parlee reminded members to review the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting minutes.

FBL: R. Parlee noted that he attended the FBL Picnic in September at Indian Notch Park and enjoyed a long discussion with the Mayor of Vernon.

BLWCA: The BLWCA did not meet this month.

SRWP: M. Rivers stated that the group did not meet last month but will be meeting next week. He added that he will provide members with a link to the shareable watershed map.

CACIWC: R. Parlee reported that CACIWC is working on the annual meeting and the next legislative session, and he is working on adding a new alternate member to the group.

8.0 Correspondence: New Sharable Wetlands Brochure, CACIWC Registration Form, etc.

R. Parlee noted that he sent out the new shareable brochure outlining wetlands identification and permit requirements. He added that the brochure is available to all of the towns through Canva and allows them to add their specific town seals and contact info to the brochure.

9.0 Adjournment - Next Meeting is a Zoom Only on Thursday, November 6, 2025

M. Rivers MOVED TO ADJOURN the meeting at 8:49 p.m. B. Cataldo SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

Respectfully submitted by Kacie Cannon

Kacie Cannon

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.

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