

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 2, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting at Town Hall

Members present: Rod Parlee (Chair), Matt Rivers

Via Zoom: Brenda Cataldo, Alan Bicknell & Kim Fofana

Not Attending: Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call 7:07 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of May 5, 2025, Regular Meeting- A motion was made by Matt Rivers, seconded by Alan Bicknell and approved unanimously to accept minutes with the following amendments: Item # 1.0 Call Meeting to Order- Roll Call “**7:06 p.m.**”, Item # 9.0 Adding “**p.m.**” to 8:47 and Change -Respectively submitted to “**Respectfully**” submitted

3.0 Public Comment -None

4.0 Financial Report - Rod Parlee has been tracking Finance for Peter Van Dine, as he will no longer be doing Financial Reports, but will continue on the commission.

4.1 End of Fiscal Year Budget- Balances of Payroll and Office Administration Service were short this year. \$280.00 was transferred from the Administrative Service Account, with a \$30.00 balance in Payroll, to pay for March and April’s Payroll. A motion by Alan Bicknell, seconded by Matt Rivers and approved unanimously to appropriate \$170.00 from Other Professional Services and add to Payroll Account (\$30.00 balance) to total \$200.00, for paying Clerk’s fees (Brenda Cataldo). A motion was made by Alan Bicknell, seconded by Matt Rivers and approved unanimously to renew 2025-26 CACIWC Membership at \$75.00 Sustaining Level to be shared with Bolton IWC. \$55 from Dues & Fees and \$20 from other Professional Services

4.2 Confirmation of Payments for VP Brochures, E-Day T-Shirts & NCCD Plant/Seedling Order- Vernal Pools Brochure was not paid from Conservation Activity Fund. \$65.00 should now come out of the Professional and Educational Training Fund. A motion was made by Matt Rivers, seconded by Alan Bicknell and approved unanimously to rescind the motion 2-3-25 - 4.4 that had approved to pay up to \$80.00 from Conservation Activity Fund. A motion was made by Matt Rivers and seconded by Alan Bicknell and approved unanimously to pay Hedges & Hedges for payment of \$65.00, from the Professional and Educational Training Fund. Earth Day T-Shirts and NCCD Plant/Seedling Order, have been paid. Better updates could be sent from the Finance Dept. when payments are made.

4.3 Rain Gauge from Onset or LBL Level Indicators – Apparently, rain gauge data is now not as important as monitoring water levels. Currently, according to FBL, both Lower & Middle Lakes

water level gauges are missing and/or are no longer functioning. UBL has data that was collected by UCONN. Discussion at recent BLWCA by Peter Van Dine stated it was important that we have baseline data of water levels, including drawdowns. Onset Hobos and Tidbits typically collect all data. Peter Van Dine was considering funding for a rain gauge from Onset, however now things have extended to Water Level Monitoring. Concerns are the excessive amounts of rain, climate change, lake draw downs, etc. Details being sought are the benefits from weather data collected from the weather station at Heritage Farm and Bolton Lake. Who collects the data? Is there public interest? Is it available to the public? How is it transmitted for collection? DEEP and/or Lake Commissioner should get involved. Continued discussion was tabled by consensus for next month's meeting.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Results of Kids to Parks Day on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at Indian Notch Park- This was the first time that the Kids to Parks Day included participants from the Bolton Regatta. A total of 20-25 people were in attendance. Peter Van Dine was a judge for the annual Regatta. Rod Parlee and Matt Rivers presented the importance of a watershed and the role of the BLWCA. Other topics included protecting vernal pools, continued threat of invasive species and restocking of small mouth bass. The Bolton Prevention Council also tabled at the event. Special thanks to the Recreation Director, Stephanie Crane for organizing the annual event.

5.2 Nathan Hale Greenway Trail Development - Rod Parlee and Alan Bicknell went 5.7 miles, round trip, trail blazing with yellow/white striped ribbons northwest to the vernal pool behind Munson's. They also retrieved temperature data. Matt Rivers and Rod Parlee tried to connect Stony Rd parking lot with trail to the northwest but couldn't identify property boundaries, so instead followed the newly yellow blazed trail to South Rd in preparation of Trails Day. Another potential Vernal Pool was found before South Road. Gwen Marion and Brett Myerson added pink ribbons to create opening on Stony Rd across from the parking area.

5.3 17th Annual Trails Day on Saturday, June 7, 2025 -

<https://trailsday.org/events/nathan-hale-greenway-forest-hike/>

Matt Largess will be the special guest speaker. Hike will begin at 10:00 a.m. Stony Rd. to yellow blaze on Nathan Hale Trail, 1.3 miles to South Road. There were concerns about getting through wetlands the other direction before doing any trail work there. Rod Parlee took drone pics of Rt. 6 and the Nathan Hale Greenway from the Stony Rd parking lot.

5.4 Results of Meeting with Jeremy Hall, Asst Dir of Parks CTDEEP and others re: BNSP Access - Meeting took place on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at Bolton Notch State Park dirt parking area with Jeremy Hall, Dave Buckley and assistant, Rodney Fournier, Pam Sawyer and Rod Parlee. Discussion ensued whether to increase the parking lot area before repairing the dangerous hairpin turn entrance. Pam Sawyer was adamant about reducing the proposed size and footprint to no more than 10 spaces. She also suggested that the 10 spaces be exclusively ADA compliant. Most agreed that the intent of the underutilized Bolton commuter lot was to be exclusively for the East Coast Greenway and requiring a sign stating where the overflow parking lot would help. All agreed to meet again with CT DOT to be included. Rodney Fournier requested that Jim Rupert arrange the meeting.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Progress on Archiving BCC Data & Purchase of External Hard Drive or Flash Drive-

To help the BCC upload data to the Town's One Drive Cloud Acct, a motion was made by Matt Rivers, seconded by Brenda Cataldo and approved unanimously to appropriated up to \$80.00 (\$69.29) from Supplies Account for a 1TB Thumb Drive ordered through Town's Amazon Acct.

6.2 Photo Contest Judging Results, Prizes and Delivery- Brenda Cataldo - On May 30th Prizes were distributed to Bolton residents, by Brenda Cataldo and Rod Parlee.

6.3 CTERT.org for more info. - Rod Parlee has been participating in an ERT in Hebron and is helping in conducting a field review of a 125-acre O'Connor property, which would be managed as protected open space property and may have a "Forever Wild" conservation easement. Three vernal pools were also found on the property, with Dennis Quinn (Southington) finding obligate salamanders under logs. Next month's topic "Coexisting with Beavers".

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

BWB- Kim Fofana, member of Bike Walk Bolton, is hoping to establish a Town subcommittee on Traffic Calming/Complete Streets. On June 9th a BoS meeting will be held on how to get Complete Streets started in Bolton, funding, data, etc. Kim also mentioned that Bolton residents can sign up at Bentley Memorial Library to fill out surveys for Complete Streets. Rod Parlee mentioned re-stripping the lines after repaving Rt 44 in Bolton, to assist with bike safety. He suggested Kim contact the Local Traffic Authority, Jim Rupert. Kim Fofano talked about Phase 2- Brandy Street Connectivity Trail and the importance of BHS student runners, making safe use of trails.

FBL no report.

BLWCA- Updated By-laws to increase membership and their mission/vision statement will be shortened.

SRWP- Membership which includes 10 towns, will hold their next meeting on June 18th, via zoom.

CACIWC- CTDEEP favors Bear Hunt. Vote upcoming. BCC supports obvious ways to prevent conflict with bears, such as removing bird feeders and covering and/or securing garbage receptacles. Some towns receive bear proof trash receptacles from USA Recycles trash haulers.

NIP legislation-nothing still in place. Rod Parlee stated that something needs to be done to stop the littering along roadways and in storm drains! Perhaps requiring 10 cent redemption may be more motivating for people to collect them.

8.0 Correspondence- none

9.0 Adjournment – A motion was made to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. by Matt Rivers and seconded by Alan Bicknell. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda V. Cataldo

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Conservation Commission Member

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

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