

# **BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, January 5, 2025, at 7:00 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting at Town Hall and via Zoom**

*See page two for Zoom instructions.*

### **1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call**

### **2.0 Minutes Review of December 1, 2025, Regular Meeting**

### **3.0 Public Comment**

### **4.0 Financial Report**

4.1 Calendar Sales Update

4.2 Review FY 26-27 Budget Request

### **5.0 New Business**

5.1 Calendar Publishing Sales Status

5.2 BCC Annual Report for FY 24-25

5.3 Results of BLT Walk of Thanksgiving at Freja Park

5.4 Establish Data Collection and Transfer Subcommittee

### **6.0 Continuing Business**

6.1 Vernal Pools Day and Earth Day (Composting) Programs at Library

6.2 Winter Trails Day Hike on January 10, 2026

6.3 Annual Photo Contest - 25 Year Milestone, New Flyer & Prizes

6.4 Beaver Solutions LLC Free Assessment

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

### **8.0 Correspondence Packet** -see attachments plus Habitat Newsletter link [HERE](#)

### **9.0 Adjournment** - Next Meeting is on Monday, February 2, 2026

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**BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, December 01, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting Only**

**Members Present via Zoom:** Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Peter VanDine - Alternate

**Members Absent:** Matt Rivers

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2.0 Minutes Review of November 06, 2025, Regular Meeting**

A Bicknell MOVED to APPROVE November 06, 2025, Meeting Minutes with the following **changes and/or modifications**:

- Section 6.2, Page 3, first sentence: Remove the word “**as**” after the word - BCC
- Section 6.3, Page 3, first paragraph, last sentence change **would** not to **will** not: “[...] however, the work **will not** begin until after winter due to freezing.”

B. Cataldo SECONDED. P. Van Dine ABSTAINS. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:1.

**3.0 Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

**4.0 Financial Report:**

**4.1 Appropriations – Calendar Publication**

Last month monies were not appropriate for the 2026 Calendar. An invoice has not yet been submitted.

- Calendars ordered: 150.
- The **invoice amount is: \$1,580.00.**
- An estimate for an **additional 25 calendars is \$230.00.**
- Calendars not yet been delivered to sell: Approximately nine (9).

A. Bicknell MOVED **to appropriate, and not to exceed, \$1,900.00** for the 2026 Bolton Town Calendar out of Conservation Activity Fund. B. Cataldo SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

**4.2 Munson’s Chocolates for Tabling**

R. Parlee stated a Recycling Challenge will be held at Bolton School, and Cropley’s Saturday and Sunday, and wants to give away prizes for anyone willing to try the recycling challenge. The suggested prizes are 30-40 individually wrapped chocolates from local Bolton business Munson’s Chocolates, not to exceed \$50.

B. Cataldo MOVED **to appropriate, and not to exceed, \$50.00** for the purchase of Munson’s Chocolates out of the Conservation Activity Fund. A. Bicknell SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

**4.3 Calendar Ads and Sales Income**

R. Parlee shows the Commission a spreadsheet of current Ads and Sales Income. Total income to date is: \$1,760.00.

R. Parlee discussed the number of calendars provided to the assigned vendors. All vendors have received their complimentary calendar except for All American Waste. They were invited to the Recycling Challenge Event to pick up their calendar.

Outstanding checks yet to be received, but are pending are Georgia's Restaurant, Cropley's Garden Center, and Highland Park Market. Outstanding checks are to be picked up over the weekend.

Bolton Physical Therapy donated \$200. One hundred dollars (\$100) is from an unpaid ad sale from last year and all monies are to be deposited and considered as income.

The Bolton Finance Department provided Peter VanDine's last year's Ads and Sales Income spreadsheet which provided information on BCC's taxable income, which is monies received from sales of goods, i.e. Calendar sales.

P. VanDine stated that calendar vendors that are promoting and displaying calendars, having not purchased the calendars outright, and return any unsold calendars. BCC pays the sales tax on the ones that are sold. If the vendors buy a quantity of calendars outright from the BCC the vendor is responsible for paying the sales tax. He further stated that BCC is primarily the wholesaler.

Highland Park Market and Charhouse Bakery & Café each bought approximately 10 calendars and are responsible for the sales tax.

R. Parlee stated that the BCC has already reached and exceeded the break-even point since the invoice to produce the calendars was \$1,580.00 and has generated \$1,760.00 in sales to date.

### **Marketing**

Discussion ensued among the Commission regarding a compliment received for the high number of repeat annual advertisers, and potentially not charging enough money to advertise in the calendar. Consensus among the Commissioners to consider increasing the advertising price next year from \$100 to \$120.

R. Parlee presented an idea suggested by the Printer of incorporating into next year's calendar perforated coupons for sponsored advertisers. Commissioners were generally not in favor of this idea as it would increase calendar design and printing costs, as well as increase volunteer labor efforts.

**\*P. VanDine leaves the meeting at 7:30 PM.\***

## **5.0 New Business:**

### **5.1 Calendar Publishing Sales & Distribution**

R. Parlee asked the commission members to follow up with the vendors to ensure that the calendars and advertisement flyers are displayed in visible locations.

A. Bicknell asked R. Parlee for a copy of the Ads and Sales Income spreadsheet as a reference list. R. Parlee stated he left a laminated flyer at his dentist's office displaying all the vendor locations where calendars can be purchased.

## **5.2 Annual Photo Contest – 25 Year Milestone, New Flyer & Prizes**

New contest, new prizes! Discussion ensued among the Commission regarding potential donors and number of gift cards. B. Cataldo stated the photo contest is in May and suggested that the BCC wait several weeks before asking local area businesses for donations since several of them were sponsors in the 2026 Annual Calendar.

## **5.3 Results of CACIWC Annual Meeting – Baseline Data**

A. Bicknell stated that he found the annual meeting interesting and enjoyed himself. R. Parlee stated that he spoke with the keynote speaker, James O'Donnell of UConn and CIRCA (CT Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation), who is seeking shared water level baseline temperature data from CT DEEP. R. Parlee stated he liaised an introduction between CIRCA and CT DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection).

## **5.4 Composting Bins and Workshop Proposals**

R. Parlee stated he spoke at a meeting of the Tolland Conservation Commission about backyard composting. He provided an update on initial interest of three (3) towns cost sharing a pallet of approximately 20 composters however due to logistical difficulties, i.e. storage constraints, interested municipal commissions are considering purchasing directly from the vendor, Earth Machine, where each compost bin is approximately \$65 each.

R. Parlee stated Charhouse Bakery & Café has invited him in 2026 to host a workshop on backyard composting. This workshop may coincide with a seedling sale for the Conservation District. Activities are slated for the months of February & April.

R. Parlee confirmed with A. Bicknell about a pending composting workshop in April at the Bolton Library.

## **5.5 Freja Park**

R. Parlee stated the during a recent hike he did some maintenance cleaning out of the newly installed waterbars. There is educational information at the trailhead kiosk notifying hikers of their function and use. Visibility markers have been placed on each side of the installed waterbars. R. Parlee suggests the waterbars are cleaned out once every three (3) months to maintain visibility and function.

## **6.0 Continuing Business:**

### **6.1 Winter Faire Tabling on December 06, 2025, and Recycling Challenge**

R. Parlee and A. Bicknell will be tabling the event and confirm table set up and break down times as well as table location. There will be two different recycling bins on display, and the local trash hauler has provided a poster on acceptable products to recycle and compost.

### **6.2 Copley's Tabling Opportunity**

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 10 AM-2 PM, at Copley's Garden Center, 1262 Boston Turnpike, Bolton, the BCC will be selling calendars and sponsoring a Recycling Challenge.

### **6.3 Winter Trails Day Hike, January 10, 2026**

Last year the 2025 Trail Day Hike was held at Herrick Park. R. Parlee asked the Commission for suggestions about where to hold the 2026 Winter Trail Day Hike, such as Freja Park. Discussion ensued about potential topographical concerns, inclement weather, and duration of a winter hike at each location.

#### **6.4 BLT Walk of Thanksgiving on November 26, 2025, 1 PM at Freja Park**

R. Parlee stated that he, M. Rivers, and approximately 32 people were in attendance. Geographical, environmental, and historical educational talks occurred. Photos for the 2026 Annual Calendar were submitted by members of Bolton Land Trust (BLT) and Lori Brooks who attended the event.

#### **6.5 Beaver Solutions LLC Free Assessment**

Beaver Solutions LLC, Massachusetts, provided beaver mitigation services along Deming Road by Blackledge Marsh Preserve on BLT property. R. Parlee stated that he has reached out to the State of CT, Dave Buckley and Jim Adams of Bike Walk Bolton (BWB), to set up an onsite meeting in the field. All parties have received the free assessment from Beaver Solutions and efforts are underway to work on co-existing with the beavers.

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

**BWB:** Kim Fofana, BWB, forwarded correspondence received from CRCOG's (Capitol Region Council of Governments) active transportation consultant Toole Design, who is developing a Priority Pathways Map which will identify more bicycle accessways throughout the region. The final map draft will be presented in the Spring 2026.

The Priority Pathways Public Meeting was held November 18, 2025. The consulting firm sent out this informational email to participants:

"The draft network we presented is available for you to review [here](#)! We invite you to browse the map at your leisure and add any additional comments or suggestions by December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please share with your friends, family, and colleagues and encourage them to add their own thoughts.

Lastly, the Public Meeting presentation is on our project [website](#) with [slides](#) and the [recording](#)."

**FBL:** Tabled to next month.

**BLWCA:** Tabled to next month.

**SRWP:** Tabled to next month.

**CACIWC:** See agenda item 5.3.

**8.0 Correspondence:** None.

**9.0 Adjournment** - Next Meeting is a Hybrid on **Monday, January 05, 2026, 7 PM at Town Hall.**

B. Cataldo MOVED TO ADJOURN the meeting at 7:52 p.m. A. Bicknell SECONDED. Consensus to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Vassallo, Recording Secretary.

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

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Topic: Conservation Commission

Time: Jan 5, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84579835261?pwd=pxxnbeTP0ChGXT9f3WxsSgo9fYJ.1>

Meeting ID: 845 7983 5261

Passcode: 899104

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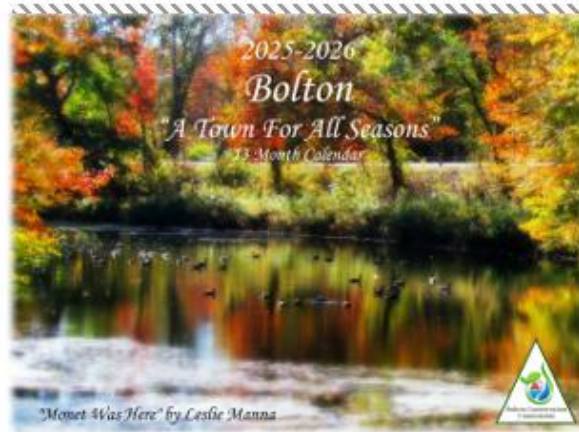
One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,84579835261# US (Washington DC)



**2025-2026**  
**Bolton Town Calendar**



**Purchase Your Calendar TODAY!**

**Calendars are \$10.00 each & available at:**

**A-1 Food Store, Bentley Memorial Library  
Bolton Town Hall, Charhause Cookie  
Cropley's Garden Center  
England Hardware, Fish Family Farm  
Highland Park Market, Manchester  
Pet Store Next Door  
W.H. Preuss & Sons**

**Get your calendar in time for the Holidays!**

**Supplies are limited**

*Calendar sales support the efforts of the Bolton Conservation Commission*

# Bolton Conservation Commission FY 2024-25 Annual Report

Rodney Parlee (Chair), Peter Van Dine (Vice-Chair/Treasurer), Brenda Cataldo, Alan Bicknell, Matt River, Kim Fofanna (Alternate) and Leslie Brand (Clerk)

The Bolton Conservation Commission continues to research the town's potential use of land and water, a responsibility essential to protecting the natural resources, conservation areas, and ecological features that define Bolton's character. Maintaining the environment while supporting economic growth requires informed, observant, and persistent conservation work. Preserving high quality, intact, and connected habitats is fundamental to a healthy landscape. As Bolton continues to develop, proposed projects must be carefully evaluated. Using peer reviewed scientific data, planning expertise, and public input helps regulatory commissions make sound decisions that protect irreplaceable resources while allowing thoughtful, well justified growth.

The Commission also monitors conditions affecting safe access to open space. In Bolton Notch, unsafe traffic patterns, including high speeds and limited sight lines, endanger pedestrians, cyclists, and park visitors. There exists a real need for improving the existing entrance to Bolton Notch State Park and the Hop River State Park.

In fiscal year 2024–2025, the Bolton Conservation Commission (BCC) made notable progress thanks to the dedication of its volunteers. Key accomplishments include:

- **Complete Streets:** Documented safety concerns about vehicular access to Bolton Notch State Park from Interstate I-384. Worked closely with alternate member Kimberly Fofana as the BCC liaison to Bike Walk Bolton, advancing principles of Complete Streets in the Town of Bolton. Provided comments regarding the Connectivity Trail and absence of clear parking-lot design criteria at Heritage Farm.
- **Stream Temperature Monitoring:** Collaborated with CTDEEP to monitor five streams and two vernal pools, completing seasonal equipment swaps and sustaining landowner engagement. Featured a Bolton Notch State Park vernal-pool temperature graph in the BCC published town calendar.
- **Watershed Conservation:** Continued partnership with local conservation alliances such as BLWCA, FBL and the SRWP. Patiently awaited approval of the Bolton Lakes Watershed Management Plan.
- **Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV):** Organized the 20th Annual RBV event at Herrick Park Lodge, to assess stream health through macroinvertebrate collection. Implemented a new disinfection protocol for field equipment. Noted a continued decline in “Most Wanted” macroinvertebrate species, which remains a concern. The drought may have had an impact.
- **Peak Foliage Hike** The hike originated from the Bolton Commuter Lot and followed the Hop River State Park Trail to Valley Falls Park and back. Members discussed tree diversity in the Bolton Notch/Valley Falls watershed, noted trailhead properties linked to the Old Growth Forest Network, the Northern CT Land Trust, and Bolton Notch State Park, and pointed out access to Box Mountain Forest, Echo Ridge, Webster Preserve, the Tulip Tree Trail, and the Mohegan Trail.
- **Winter Faire:** Set up a well-attended tabletop exhibit, sold calendars, and hosted the Recycling Challenge. Expressed renewed concern about the continued lack of recycling bins at the Town event. Also tabled at Croyley's Garden Center and offered Recycling Challenge and calendar sales.
- **Winter Trails Day:** Wildlife advocate Ray Hardy was the special guest at Herrick Park that focused on tracking wildlife in the snow. Twelve people attended on a blustery cold day.



- **Vernal Pools Day:** Sponsored a well-attended Vernal Pool Sunset Serenade workshop at the library, followed by a sunset field review of the upland forest vernal pool behind the library with wetlands professional scientist Ed Pawlak. Ed collected obligate species on a tray to show participants.
- **Earth Day Celebration:** The Fairy House Building Contest & Mini-Bio Blitz was a success at Freja Park. Guest speakers included Wildlife Advocate Ray Hardy and Forest Ecologist Marlene Cole.
- **Kids to Parks Day:** The BCC teamed up with the Bolton Recreation Department and the Bolton Regatta at Indian Notch Park. Peter Van Dine was a judge for the annual Regatta. Rod Parlee and Matt Rivers presented the importance of a watershed and the Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance.
- **Trails Day:** Explored the newly blazed Nathan Hale Greenway trail with special guest and nationally known arborist, Matt “Twig” Largess discussing dendrology and forest conservation.
- **Park Management:** Managed trail workparties, kiosks and provided educational material in parks.
- **Community Engagement:** Participated in monthly local and state-wide board meetings, town forums, and conservation conferences. Tabled at the CACIWC Annual Meeting and Conference and offered the Recycling Challenge and sold calendars.
- **Citizen Science:** With BCC support, urged both the BLWCA and FBL to develop base-line water level data on all three lakes and received estimates on an Onset weather station with rain gauge for LBL.
- **Trail Management:** Coordinated with local and state conservation officials on managing trail erosion and illegal motor vehicle access in parks. Volunteered for the Town and with the Bolton Land Trust in developing the Nathan Hale Greenway hiking trail.
- **Photo Contest and Calendar:** Hosted the 23rd Annual Town-wide Photo Contest and published the 14th edition of the traditional calendar, raising funds for conservation efforts. Special thanks to advertisers! The Annual Photo Contest, made possible by the Bolton Conservation Commission, recognized outstanding entries across four categories. In **Examples of Green Living & Farming**, first place went to “*Bath Time*” by Steve Niemczyk (\$100 Cropley’s Gift Card), second to “*A Gentle Girl Between Milkings*” by Leslie Manna (Highbush Blueberries), and third to “*Fall Baling*” by William Betterini (Blue Flag Iris, T-shirt, and Potted Conifer). In **Beauty of Nature and Open Space**, first place was awarded to “*Trail Blazing*” by Leslie Manna (\$100 Cropley’s Gift Card), second to “*Pink Beauties*” by Sylvia Ounpuu (Highbush Blueberries), and third to “*Fall Reflections on Tinker Pond*” by Lauren Coleman (Queen of the Prairie Perennial, T-shirt, and Potted Conifer). For **People in the Environment**, first place went to “*Stroll on the Hop River Trail*” by Jim Adams (Witch Hazel and Sheep Laurel), second to “*A Walk to Remember*” by William Betterini (Highbush Blueberries), and third to “*Shuttered Solitude*” by Rich Fitch (Cardinal Flower, T-shirt, and Potted Conifer). In **Wildlife in Bolton**, first place was awarded to “*Bumble Bee*” by Mary Catherine L. Sonntag (Button Bush and Mountain Laurel), second to “*Fox Hunting Stride*” by Lindsay Pettinicchi (Highbush Blueberries), and third to “*Vernal Pool Rockstar*” by Sharon Wilson (Summer Phlox, T-shirt, and Potted Conifer). All current and past winning photos are posted for viewing on the Town of Bolton web page under Conservation Commission Photo Contest, Previous Years.

<https://www.boltonct.gov/boards-commissions/conservation-commission/previous-years-photo-contest-results>

These actions reflect the BCC’s ongoing commitment to conservation, environmental education, and community involvement in protecting Bolton’s natural resources, and they capture a snapshot in time, preserving the conditions, decisions, and community spirit that define this moment in our stewardship history.

## Bolton Land Trust WALK OF THANKSGIVING on November 29, 2025

TALKING POINTS by Rod Parlee, BCC Chair

**Old Manchester Drive In** was built in 1953, closed in 1986 now Retirement Living LLC 21 acres for sale, asking \$980K

**The History of Freja Park** - Freja Park (pronounced Fray-ya) is a 21-acre public park- abuts the old Manchester Drive-In, Notch Pond, the Hop River State Park Trail and Bolton Notch State Park.

With the recommendation of the Bolton Conservation Commission (BCC), the town acquired the property in 1968 for \$7,500.00 from the Freja Park Association.

Unfortunately, over the years the park had suffered from both abuse and neglect. Illegal dumping and deep gullied ruts, caused in part from the illegal use of all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles were found on all trails.

Peter Marteka, formerly of *The Hartford Courant*, chronicled these efforts in a 2000 article about the park, which had become a **“cesspit of illegal dumping and rogue ATV trails”**.

In March of '98, the BCC submitted a detailed Freja Park Trail Improvement Plan that was endorsed by the BoS and approved with the FY '98 Budget Referendum.

The BCC with many volunteers and Bolton BSA Troop 73 removed over 9-tons of garbage and with the help of the Building and Grounds Department, numerous town volunteers and the Project Green crew installed over 40 check dams and water bars and spread many loads of woodchips in the gullied trails to slow the erosion process.

The BCC's Freja Park Trail Improvement subcommittee submitted a detailed plan with a vision **“To provide a refuge for the restoration and preservation of native plants and animal species that reside within Freja Park”** This would be accomplished by educating the public about the park's diversity of habitat through nature walks, lectures and creation of, on site labels and pamphlets, to improve, maintain, delineate the trails and identify various species of flora and fauna.”

### **MISSION**

The ongoing mission of the Plan is “To provide an ecological balance through the preservation, conservation, restoration and protection of all the natural habitat within Freja Park.”

## **The Green Blazed Kempf Trail**

Dedicated In loving memory of Commission vice-chair, Michael C. Kempf whose compassion and persistence made the Freja Park trail improvement project possible. 9/23/70 – 2/12/02

The BCC continues to manage the trails in Freja Park and is looking for trail monitors and volunteers who will report trail conditions to the Conservation Commission as well as helping at work parties.

**Talk at Benches**, a virtual description of the myriad of existing Open Space - From The 2,000 acres, 3 sq mile Bolton Notch Pond/Valley Falls Watershed clockwise from the west, Stratified Drift aquifer and back-up waters supply to the Town of Manchester, Risley Park (87 acres in Bolton and Vernon), Manchester Water Supply in Vernon, Old Growth Network -Box Mt Forest in Bolton (50) and Vernon (67) , Box Mt is 850 feet, Rambling Ridge Vernon Open Space 100 acres, Echo Ridge/Webster Preserve (NCLT) now part of the OGFN, Valley Falls, Bolton Notch State Parks (2) Pastel and Roberts property leading to Bolton Lake via the Tulip Tres Trail, and BNSP with the Mohegan Trail leading to the Hop River State Park Trail

Hop River State Park Trail was formally established as a Connecticut state park in 1979. It was created after the abandonment of the Hartford, Providence & Fishkill Railroad line, which ceased operations in 1970. • September 29, 1970: The last train ran on the line, by then part of the bankrupt Penn Central Railroad.

1979: The abandoned rail corridor was officially designated as Hop River State Park Trail, part of Connecticut's growing rail-trail system. great example of how abandoned industrial infrastructure was repurposed into ecological and recreational assets. It reflects the same collaborative, multi-town conservation ethos we've championed across Connecticut

**RR Brook Fish Habitat Restoration 2000** Brian Murphy of CTDEEP facilitated project and at the request of the BCC installed a wooden bridge over (relocated to historic channel) Railroad Brook. Lunker structures provide breeding habitat for Blacknose Dace and Brook Trout. Railroad Brook drains to Valley Falls Pond and has listed Endangered and Threatened Species. Yellow Ladies Slipper could be extinct in the area.

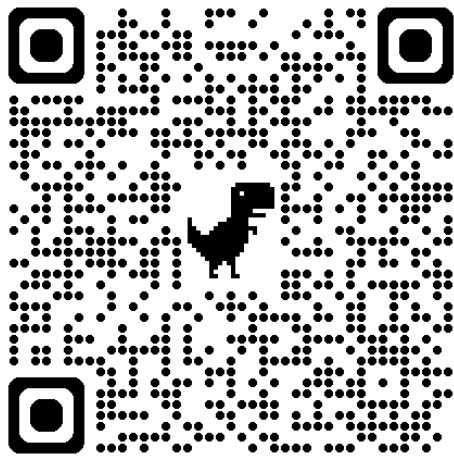
**More on Old Growth Forest Network** April 29, 2023 Webster Preserve/Echo Ridge and Box Mountain Forest Inducted into the National Old-Growth Forest Network!

On April 29th at 11:00am, Northern Connecticut Land Trust's Webster Preserve/Echo Ridge was formally inducted into the national Old-Growth Forest Network. To celebrate the induction of this protected forest, a ceremony was held at the trailhead and Old-Growth Forest Network's Northeast Regional Manager, Sarah Robb Grieco, presented a plaque to Karl Hasel, Northern Connecticut Land Trust's Vice President. 44 acres are on the northwestern border of the unique Bolton Notch/Valley Falls Watershed and are part of only a handful of watersheds in CT that drain in a northerly direction. The 14-acre Echo Ridge property abuts the 30-acre Webster Preserve providing blazed trails along the

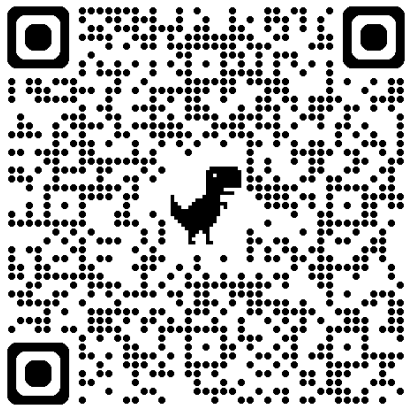
Box Mountain Forest spans 117 acres- almost equally distributed in Vernon and Bolton. This forest has not been developed but likely has been logged in some of the acreage over the last 30 years. Since its recent purchase by the Summers family, this forest has their commitment that it will never be logged again. The property borders the Hop River trail for about a half mile, so much of it is visible to trail users, and several trails run through the property itself. Access to the forest is from the Hop River trail or a small 50 foot right of way on Box Mountain Drive in Vernon. Mark Summers says, "Leaving forests intact has become an important step as a climate change countermeasure. Together, Webster Preserve/Echo Ridge and Box Mountain Forest constitute 161 acres of protected forestland in the Bolton Notch/Valley Falls watershed. **The mission of the Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN) is to connect people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, publicly accessible, native forests. The organization's goal is to preserve at least one forest in every county in the United States**



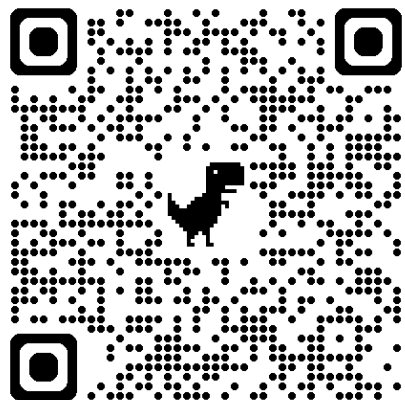
Photo Contest QR Code



BCC Annual Report QR Code



Freja Park Brochure QR Code

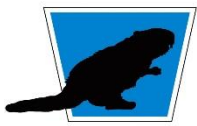






**Photos by Mary Terhune, Bolton Land Trust President**

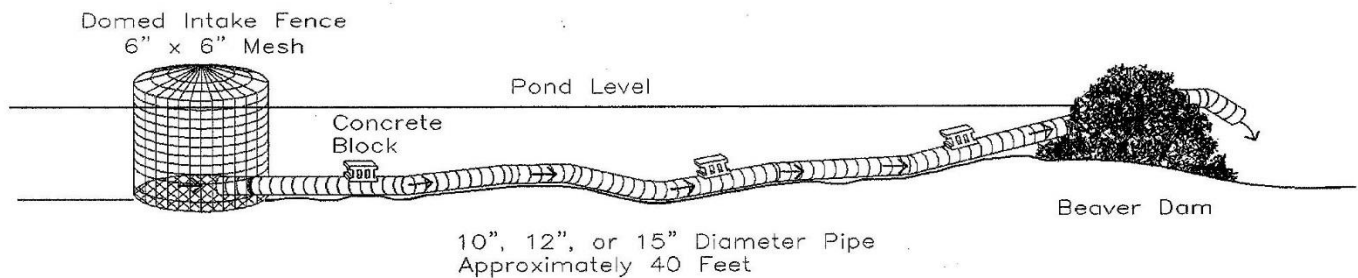




**BEAVER**  
SOLUTIONS

## ***Flexible Pond Leveler™***

When flooding from a beaver dam threatens human property, health or safety, a Beaver Solutions Flexible Pond Leveler™ pipe system can be a very effective solution. This flow device will create a permanent leak through the beaver dam that the beavers cannot stop. This eliminates the need for repeated trapping despite the presence of beavers.



In order for these pipe systems to be effective, they must be designed so that beavers cannot detect the flow of water into the pipe. The Flexible Pond Leveler™ does this by surrounding the submerged intake of the pipe with a large cylinder of fencing which is placed in as deep water as possible. This prevents the beavers from detecting the flow of water into the pipe. As a result, the beavers do not try to clog the pipe, and a safe water level can be maintained.

The height of the pipe in the dam determines the pond level (see diagram). Water will flow through the pipe unless the pond level drops below the peak of the pipe. The pipe is set in the dam at the desired pond level, and can be adjusted up or down if necessary.

Unlike road culverts, Flexible Pond Leveler™ pipes do not need to be sized to handle catastrophic storm events because heavy storm runoff will simply flow over the top of the dam. Following the storm the pipe will return the pond to the normal level.

When installing a pipe system it is very important to lower a pond only enough to protect human interests. The more a pond is lowered the more likely it is beavers will build a new dam to render the pipe ineffective. Lowering a beaver pond by up to one vertical foot is generally not a problem.

Whenever a freestanding dam must be lowered by two feet or more, a single round of trapping may be needed prior to installing the pipe. Following trapping new beavers relocating into the area are more likely to tolerate the smaller pond without new problematic dam building because they do not have the memory of the larger pond.

With routine maintenance this flow device will remain effective for many years. Since our customer's satisfaction and our reputation are very important to us, we offer an optional low cost Maintenance Plan which includes our "Worry-Free Guarantee" at no additional cost. However, if you prefer to do the maintenance, we are always available to answer any questions at no charge because we are committed to long term success, your satisfaction and our good reputation.

*May be reproduced courtesy of Mike Callahan, Owner  
Beaver Solutions LLC, "Working With Nature"*



## **BCC Fiscal Year 2024-25**

### **Attendance**

Rod Parlee 12  
Peter VanDine 6  
Alan Bicknell 11  
Brenda Cataldo 10  
Matt Rivers 10  
Kimberly Fofana 4

### **Clerks**

Leslie Brand 8  
Kacie Cannon 2  
Brenda Cataldo 2

### **Meeting Duration in Minutes**

July 100  
Aug 75  
Sept 126  
Oct 142  
Nov 123  
Dec 113  
Jan 133  
Feb, 126  
March 124  
April 138  
May 101  
June 101  
Avg meeting duration 116 mins



# **Minutes from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025**

## **BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Monday, July 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting held virtually utilizing Zoom**

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell and Matt Rivers

#### **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 June 3, 2024, Regular Meeting**

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

#### **3.0 Public Comment:** None

#### **4.0 Financial Report**

##### **4.1 End of Fiscal Year Report:**

Tabled until the next meeting.

##### **4.2 CLCC Membership**

R. Parlee suggested joining the CLCC as the BCC works with them frequently.

M. Rivers made a motion to appropriate the \$25.00 membership fee from the Professional and Business Account to join the CLCC. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

##### **4.3 Earth Day Fairy House Contest Prize Reimbursement**

B. Cataldo has received reimbursement.

##### **4.4 CACIWC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting/Tabling**

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate the \$75.00 membership fee from the Professional and Business Account to join CACIWC as a sustaining member in conjunction with the Inland Wetlands Commission. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

R. Parlee has been working on scheduling exhibitors, including other Conservation Commissions for the CACIWC Annual Meeting. CACIWC has agreed to \$35.00 admission fee for one person who is tabling at the event. BCC members agreed to table at the event.

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 Commercial Tractor Trailers in Bolton Commuter Lot**

R. Parlee has been tracking tractor trailers parking in the Commuter Lot. They have come close to blocking emergency access to the trails. Signs stating “No Commercial Vehicles” are posted. Sec 13b-29-3 states tractor-trailers trucks and semi-trailers are prohibited. He emailed the town and was told to contact the State Police. The Resident Trooper (860-643-6060) needed directive from the DOT to issue tickets. They have received directive and Troop K (860-465-5400) has now agreed to ticket tractor trailers that are parking in the lot and requested that Troop K be notified directly in the future.

### **5.2 Results of Bolton Notch Bike/Walk Connectivity Meeting**

A. Bicknell attended this walk. Approximately 20 people were in attendance. The history of the efforts to connect Route 44 to Freja Park and the Rail Trail was shared. There is a meeting tomorrow at 7:00 at Town Hall to discuss the connectivity project. A. Bicknell will be attending. R. Parlee asked how the trail will be rerouted when they put lighting in the tunnel. A. Bicknell noted that was not discussed. There was no discussion during the walk about making a right hand turn only lane for cars and bikes into the Tunnel parking lot. The BCC discussed this at length.

M. Rivers made a motion that the Conservation Commission supports whatever safe solution will best work to connect the Bolton Lake area via the Route 44 (westbound) corridor to the Hop River Trail and the East Coast Greenway. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

### **5.3 Results of Heritage Farm Connectivity Walk**

R. Parlee attended this walk and he shared a map online. The walks were run by Gwen Marrion. There are two proposals to connect the Town Hall area to Heritage Farm and the High School on Brandy Street via a walking path. The plans have to be approved by the CT DEEP NDDB.

### **5.4 Swapping Update of Stream Temperature Monitors**

Photos were shared online. All monitors have been swapped: at the Scorso property on French Brook, Bolton Pond Brook, Baker Brook, the vernal pools in Bolton Notch State Park and the Nathan Hale Greenway and leading into Notch Pond and Railroad Brook. Most monitors will be attached with a length of chain attached to a fencepost, with an angle iron holding the PVC and the hobo. R. Parlee forwarded the downloaded data to P. Van Dine.

### **5.5 Election of Officers**

R. Parlee made a motion to nominate P. Van Dine as Treasurer and Vice Chair of the BCC. A. Bicknell seconded. The nomination passed unanimously 3:0:0.

M. Rivers made a motion to elect P. Van Dine as Treasurer and Vice Chair of the BCC. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to nominate R. Parlee as Chair of the BCC. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed 2:0:0

M. Rivers made a motion to elect R. Parlee as Chair of the BCC. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 2:0:0.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Calibration of ExStik II Conductivity and Mapping NRI with GIS Meta Data**

Tabled until the next meeting.

### **6.2 Outreach and New Town E-Mail**

M. Rivers will follow up with Kathy McCavanagh for assistance in using the new dedicated BCC Email address.

### **6.3 SRWP Preserves List**

M. Rivers shared the list of the SRWP Preserves online.

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

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake)** – A cookout is planned for September

**BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance)** – The clogged trash rack at Upper Bolton Lake is causing the lake to rise six to eight inches. The CT DEEP needs to set up a plan for keeping this clear. The BLWCA is working with the Northern Land Trust and Amy Paterson of the CLCC to preserve open space.

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership)** – A meeting was held on June 19, 2024. M. Rivers was unable to attend but according to the minutes, a Salmon Cove Paddle will be held on July 26, 2024. The next meeting will be held on August 21, 2024.

**CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions)** –

At the last meeting there was discussion about the House special session on climate change.

Unfortunately, no action was taken in the State Senate or during the Special session.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

Carbon Calculator tool to help estimate individual tree benefits in terms of carbon sequestration, carbon dioxide, air pollution, storm water impacts and energy savings from Bob Leverett.

<https://design.itreetools.org>

## **8.0 Adjournment**

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. held only virtually 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**

M. Rivers made a motion to appropriate the \$25.00 membership fee from the Professional and Business Account to join the CLCC. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

- A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate the \$75.00 membership fee from the Professional and Business Account to join CACIWC as a sustaining member in conjunction with the Inland Wetlands Commission. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0

## **BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Monday, August 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting held virtually utilizing Zoom**

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, and Matt Rivers

### **1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **2.0 Minutes Review of July 1, 2024, Regular Meeting**

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

**3.0 Public Comment:** None

### **4.0 Financial Report**

#### **4.1 End of Fiscal Year Report:**

Tabled to the next meeting.

## **4.2 BLT, CLCC & CACIWC Membership**

All memberships have been processed.

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 2025 Calendar – Monthly Photo Selection – Brenda**

B. Cataldo reported that she will select the monthly calendar pictures and will have them ready for review at next month's meeting. Discussion ensued about selecting a cover photo.

### **5.2 Stream Temperature Monitoring Data – Peter**

All of the monitoring data has been submitted to P. Van Dine including the data from the tidbits. The data needs to be sent to the CT DEEP.

R. Parlee asked A. Bicknell and M. Rivers obtain the data from P. VanDine and to share that data with Mr. Giglio, Mr. Scorso and the property owners adjacent to Baker Brook.

### **5.3 BoS Facilities & Public Safety Facility Subcommittee Meeting Results**

R. Parlee asked the members to review the July 16, 2024 and the July 1, 2024, Facilities and Public Safety Subcommittee minutes regarding Heritage Farm and the proposed pathway. R. Parlee read from a portion of the minutes.

There is an endangered species blob designation mapped on the CT DEEP NDDDB within the proposed pathway area. The proposed location of the bike path/parking area at the Heritage Farm is also an issue. Planning a bike path through a parking lot allowing bike/pedestrians to negotiate freely is not a safe idea. They should be separate. A design solution strategy could help guide behavior.

A. Bicknell made a motion that R. Parlee send a letter of concern and interest to the Facilities Public Safety Committee. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

Discussion regarding Cubes Drive will be tabled until next month.

<https://files.aptuitivcdn.com/EzoynNLyL2-1704/docs/boards/selectmen/2024/Minutes/BOS-Facilities-Public-Safety-Subcommittee-7.16.24-Special-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

<https://files.aptuitivcdn.com/EzoynNLyL2-1704/docs/boards/selectmen/2024/Minutes/07.01.24-MINUTES-facilities-and-public-safety.pdf>

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Calibration of ExStik II Conductivity and Mapping NRI with GIS Meta Data – Peter**

R. Parlee asked M. Rivers to assist P. Van Dine with the use of the ExStik II if necessary.

R. Parlee mentioned the two parcel maps, one of which was donated to Town Hall. P. Van Dine is in the process of updating the meta data.

## **6.2 Outreach and New Town E-Mail - Matt**

M. Rivers sent up a new personal Outlook Email address for his BCC related Emails. He highlighted the potential for the creation of online invitations, Power Point presentations and surveys. A. Bicknell noted that the format of the invitations should be consistent. R. Parlee suggested compiling the comments and Email addresses left on the sign in sheet at the Freja Park kiosk.

R. Parlee reported that the Town BCC Email address is still pending. Remote access will be available and Office 365 may be included. Questions remained as to whether or not more than one person would have access to the Town BCC Email address.

R. Parlee asked what the phase in process would involve. Once the domain name is established the user name and password would need to be distributed to BCC members and they would need to determine who would be able to access the address remotely.

A. Bicknell made a motion to move forward to establish a Town Email address for the BCC. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

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

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake)** – The watershed management plan was discussed at the last meeting.

**BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance)** – The last meeting was held with Michael Dietz, a UConn professor in attendance. The grant application to fly drones and gather data over Middle Bolton Lake will move forward.

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership)** –The next meeting is scheduled for later this month.

**CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions)** – They are still in the process of planning the annual meeting. Staffing at CT DEEP was a topic of discussion at the last meeting.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

Information about a three-part film series titled “Beaver Pond Wildlife Series” produced by New England Forests and available on their You Tube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGyMLG2wnBE&list=PL-cKOnYB94s5lpdFjznboFN-WYV-YObc1>

Hartford Courant (8/5/2024) article about a clearcut by Eversource at the Hockanum River Linear Park.

### **8.0 Adjournment**

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall and/or Virtual utilizing Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Brand,

*Leslie J. Brand*

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### **Financial Action items**

None

**BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom**

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo (joined the meeting at 7:06 via Zoom), Matt Rivers and Peter Van Dine

### **1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **2.0 Minutes Review of August 5, 2024, Regular Meeting**

Amendment-Under 5.2, add “to” in the last paragraph between M. Rivers and obtain.

M. Rivers made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 3:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

### **3.0 Public Comment:** None

### **4.0 Financial Report**

#### **4.1 End of Fiscal Year Report:**

P. Van Dine shared the report with the commission members. The report was successfully reconciled with the Finance Department.

There was discussion about the payroll budget and the possibility of needing additional funds to compensate the clerk if a special meeting is held. This topic will be revisited in December.

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

#### **4.2 BLT, CLCC & CACIWC Membership**

The BLT and CACIWC memberships have been paid.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees account for membership to the CLCC. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

If the BCC is tabling for the CACIWC meeting, one BCC member would be able to attend for \$35.00.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 2025 Calendar Planning – Monthly/Cover Photo Selection – Brenda**

Brenda has selected 18 potential photos for the calendar pages and one for the cover. R. Parlee brought up the idea of adding natural events to the calendar i.e. salamander crossings, bird migrations, etc. Brenda noted that there is already limited space in the calendar squares for people to make notes. R. Parlee will compile a list of BCC events to present at the next meeting for discussion.

The page vs. the envelope for donations was discussed. It is more costly to insert the envelopes.

The BCC QR code will be included in the calendar.

Advertisements will have to be solicited. M. Rivers asked if donations could be made electronically. P. Van Dine noted that the FBL is able to accept electronic donations. The finance Department would have to approve electronic donations to the BCC. R. Parlee will research how to set up a QR code donation option and how to track QR code usage at the park kiosks.

#### **5.2 Stream Temperature Monitoring Data – Peter**

R. Parlee asked P. Van Dine to prepare graphs of 3-4 years of historic data. Mr. Scorso and Mr. Giglio are interested in seeing the results from the brooks that run through their respective properties. P. Van Dine has yet to submit the BCC stream temperature data. The CT DEEP is particular about the information that they receive.

#### **5.3 2024 RBV & 2023 Results**

See: [2023 RBV Program Report \(ctdeepwatermonitoring.github.io\)](https://ctdeepwatermonitoring.github.io)



R. Parlee will contact the town to reserve the Herrick Park lodge for the 2024 RBV to be held on October 27, 2024. The alternate location will be B. Cataldo's house. Bolton High will be contacted for volunteers. New collection sites will be discussed at the October meeting.

Due to rain, only Baker Brook was tested in 2023.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Connectivity Trail through Heritage Farm**

The BOS has a subcommittee for this initiative. The BCC concern from the last meeting was how to negotiate a bike path safely through the Heritage Farm parking lot. R. Parlee will reach out to the Town Engineer regarding this concern. A. Bicknell asked about locating the bike path between the barn and the parking lot so it wouldn't have to cross the parking lot. Discussion ensued.

R. Parlee will ask Jim Rupert what he and Patrice Carson learned from CRCOG about traffic issues in the Notch.

In other discussion, there is a town-owned lot on the south side of Stony Road that may be using for parking for the Nathan Hale Greenway.

### **6.2 Calibration of ExStik II Conductivity and Mapping NRI with GIS Meta Data – Peter**

P. Van Dine noted that Eric Thomas said that the BCC should work with Pat Young regarding data collection. P. Van Dine wants to include the BCC data in the SRWP report and to find out how to collect data that they will find acceptable. R. Parlee asked P. Van Dine to piggyback on Rod's Email to Pat Young to find out how the BCC can work with them.

R. Parlee will bring the physical parcel map to meetings to update the NRI.

### **6.3 Outreach and New Town E-Mail – Matt**

R. Parlee has been in contact with the town IT staff person regarding his Bolton Email account.

M. Rivers asked what the new Email address is for the BCC.

Peak Foliage day is scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2024. R. Parlee suggested a hike from Bolton Commuter Lot to the Risley Reservoir to include the Box Mountain old growth forest.

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

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake)** – P. Van Dine reported that the CT DEEP has been non-responsive to their requests. On September 14, 2024, representatives from the FBL and local legislators have been invited to their summer social event at Indian Notch Park.

### **BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) –**

R. Parlee noted that there are two new members. The October 29, 2024, meeting at the NCCD will include special guest Ed Pawlak, a Wetlands Professional Scientist who will discuss Vernal

Pool Conservation.

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership)** – M. Rivers was unable to attend the last meeting. Macroinvertebrate (RBV) training will be held on September 7, 2024.

**CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions)** – R. Parlee noted the lack of CT DEEP staffing. One of the CACIWC Legal Workshops planned for the Annual Meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> will cover the exemption or “As of Right” issue.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

Japanese knotweed is now flowering, and it is extremely hard to eradicate. R. Parlee read that acid from lemons can be used with some success with a ratio of two parts lemon juice to one part water. P. Van Dine read that pachysandra can choke it out as well.

Email from Casey Carini that R. Parlee read regarding willow trees and their capability to absorb large quantities of water. They are very useful for erosion control.

<https://today.uconn.edu/2024/09/fast-growing-and-versatile-uconn-researcher-is-working-to-plant-more-willows/>

P. Van Dine shared a NY Times article about solar farms, noting that they are helpful in attracting pollinators and small animals.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/05/climate/solar-power-pollinators-wildlife.html?smid=em-share>

R. Parlee read from an article about storm water and climate change. Existing culverts and dams may not be sufficient for this “new normal”.

A. Bicknell noted that St. Johnsbury, VT had 4 inches of rain in a 6 hour time frame which caused a lot of damage.

## **8.0 Adjournment**

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7, 2024, 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.



## **Financial Action items**

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees account for membership to the CLCC. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees account for membership to the CLCC. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

## **BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION** **Regular Meeting** **Monday, October 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** **Meetings held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom**

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (present via Zoom), Brenda Cataldo, Matt Rivers (present via Zoom) and Peter Van Dine

### **1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

### **2.0 Minutes Review of Thursday, September 5, 2024, Regular Meeting**

Corrections: 6.1, last paragraph, correct “using” to “used”

6.3, last paragraph, capitalize “Day”

7.0 “4 inches” of rain should read “8 inches” of rain

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

### **3.0 Public Comment:** None

### **4.0 Financial Report**

P. Van Dine reported on the financial activity since the last BCC meeting.

#### **4.1 CLCC Membership**

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for membership to the CLCC. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine has the information to process the membership.

#### **4.2 CACIWC Annual Conference Exhibiting & Attendance**

R. Parlee noted that because the BCC is a member of CACIWC and if the BCC is tabling, one person can attend the annual conference for \$35.00. The additional regular membership fee is \$85.00. A. Bicknell and R. Parlee are available to attend.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$120.00 from the Professional Educational Training account for R. Parlee and A. Bicknell to attend the annual CACIWC conference. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine has the registration forms.

#### **4.3 Winter Faire Early Bird Registration by 10/25**

The Winter Faire will be held on December 7, 2024, from 9:00-2:00. The early bird registration fee is \$30.00. The BCC will be tabling at this event. P. Van Dine has the registration form.

M. Rivers made a motion to appropriate up to \$30.00 from the Dues and Fees account for Early Bird Winter Faire registration. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Rod will obtain an invoice from Stephanie Crane of the Rec Dept.

#### **4.4 RBV Disinfection of Field Equipment Materials**

R. Parlee noted that there is a new disinfection protocol in place for supplies being used in the field. Some bacteria are being spread from stream to stream. The waders, gloves and nets used during the RBV will need to be cleaned with a 10% bleach solution at Herrick Park in between each stream sampling. A few items are necessary. Examples are two large plastic bins, bleach, two brushes and a pump sprayer. Receipts will be necessary for reimbursement of any items that need to be purchased.

Sarah Davies is the new biology teacher at Bolton High School. She and her students may be interested in attending the RBV and weekly stream temperature testing may be a possibility with the students in the future.

Judy Lodi will need to be contacted for permission to access her property along the the Blackledge River and will likely appreciate the results.

#### **4.5 Pizza for RBV Volunteers**

A receipt is needed from Georgina's for the pizza that will be purchased for the RBV participants. The BCC has a Town of Bolton account. B. Cataldo will get a head count.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 2025 Calendar Planning – Photo Selection, Ads, QR Code & PO Request**

B. Cataldo shared the monthly photo selections with the Commission members that were present at Town Hall.

B. Cataldo will contact the printer to get a purchase order. 125 calendars will be printed in the Iso phase with the potential of more being printed as the need arises.

R. Parlee will have his calendar letter and collage ready before November 1, 2024. B. Cataldo offered to contact the prior ad purchasers. She will also send the advertising form to all BCC members. B. Cataldo will also share a calendar cover for promotional purposes and produce a calendar on-sale flyer to display at locations in town. B. Cataldo plans to have the calendar to the printer by November 1, 2024.

R. Parlee would like the QR code of the BCC website to appear on the letter page of the calendar and will look into having the recycling flyer printed (150 copies) and contact the BoS and P&Z for meeting dates.

P. Van Dine made a motion that a purchase order be produced for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 for calendar printing from the Conservation Activity Fund. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

## **5.2 Review BCC Meeting Dates, Events, Calendar Dates & 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest for 2025**

The following BCC meeting dates are proposed for 2025:

Monday, January 6, 2025  
Monday, February 3, 2025  
Monday, March 3, 2025  
Monday, April 7, 2025  
Monday, May 5, 2025  
Monday, June 2, 2025  
Monday, July 7, 2025  
Monday, August 4, 2025  
**Thursday, September 4, 2025**  
Monday, October 6, 2025  
**Thursday, November 6, 2025**  
Monday, December 1, 2025

Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, virtual via Zoom or hybrid.

P. Van Dine made a motion to approve the above BCC meeting dates for 2025. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

BCC Events for 2025 are proposed as follows:

Winter Trails Day January 11, 2025  
Vernal Pools Day March 22, 2025  
Earth Day Celebration April 26, 2025  
Photo Contest Deadline May 5, 2025  
Kids to Parks Day May 17, 2025  
Trails Day June 7, 2025  
Peak Foliage Hike October 18, 2025  
22<sup>nd</sup> Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers October 25, 2025

B. Cataldo made a motion to approve the above BCC event dates as submitted. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Dates will also be added to the calendar for scrap metal pickup, meeting dates of other boards and commissions in town, town sponsored events, full moon dates, other celestial dates and any other dates deemed appropriate.

A. Bicknell made a motion to open the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest for 2025. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0. Brenda agreed to update the Photo Contest Flyer.

### **5.3 Stream Temperature Monitoring, Logging & Retrieval Data – Peter**

P. Van Dine shared the historical temperature graph from Railroad Brook during the meeting. The graph will be included in the calendar with a few tweaks.

### **5.4 New CTDEEP RBV Disinfection Protocol for Scientific Collectors**

Discussed under 4.4.

### **5.5 21<sup>st</sup> Annual RBV on 10/27 – Site Selections and Submission Form RBV Site Submission Form ([arctgis.com](https://arctgis.com))**

Railroad Brook and Blackledge River are the most promising locations.

Baker Brook, French Brook, Bolton Pond Brook and the headwater of the Hop River will be considered as time allows.

A. Bicknell asked if reporting should be done to note locations that aren't finding any macroinvertebrates. R. Parlee will check with CTDEEP.

Four BCC members will be attending the RBV which is scheduled from 10:00 to 4:00. P. Van Dine will arrive at 11:00.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Peak Foliage Hike on 10/19**

The Peak Foliage Hike will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. from the Bolton Commuter Lot along the Hop River State Park Trail to Valley Falls Park and back. BCC members will discuss the diversity of the trees **along** the way in the rare Bolton Notch/Valley Falls watershed. The trailhead properties are associated with the Old Growth Forest Network, the Northern CT Land Trust, and Bolton Notch State Park. Commission members will point out trailhead access to the Box Mountain Forest, Echo Ridge, Webster Preserve, the Tulip Tree Trail, and the Mohegan Trail.

M. Rivers made a motion that the BCC lead a hike for Peak Foliage Day along the Hop River Trail on October 19, 2024, leading to the trailheads. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

## **6.2 Connectivity Trail through Heritage Farm & NHG Parking on Stony Drive**

R. Parlee has not heard any feedback about the BCC concerns on the trail design that has the bike path heading through the parking lot. A public hearing will be held at a later date. Arlene Fiano is the chair of the Heritage Farm Commission and R. Parlee has contacted her. CCROG is involved with the trail design.

The NHG parking lot will be on Stony Drive. Construction will begin this winter on the south side of Stony Road.

## **6.3 Collaboration with SRWP**

Pat Young is open to working with the BCC and sharing data.

P. Van Dine noted that the next step is to find an organization to do weekly temperature testing from May to September on the Blackledge River and/or French Brook.

M. Rivers reported that the lack of people power is a detriment. Perhaps high school students with the help of Sarah Davies could participate as part of their community service requirement. Rod thinks that the BCC could utilize the ExStik to gather data. P. Van Dine noted that training is essential on the use of the ExStik. The SRWP expertise would be helpful.

## **6.4 Outreach and New Town Email**

Access to the new town email is still a work in progress. M. Rivers and R. Parlee will meet with the IT person at the workstation in Bolton Town Hall for assistance.

R. Parlee will send M. Rivers the information regarding the Peak Foliage Hike and the RBV so that he can contact prior participants.

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

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake)** – P. Van Dine noted that they had a very successful social gathering on September 14<sup>th</sup>. As there is no speaker available for the Fall Forum, a business meeting will be held instead. Beth Lawrence has committed to speaking in the Spring. P. Van Dine for FBL, has submitted a grant proposal for \$4,975.00 to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for the purchase of new equipment.

**BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance)** – R. Parlee reported that the last meeting was held on August 29, 2024. The Town of Coventry wetlands agent attended the meeting. The new member of the BLWCA is a new employee at the NCCD and is also the Bolton Wetlands Agent. The Fall Forum will be held on October 28, 2024, at the NCCD in Vernon with Wetlands Professional Scientist, Ed Pawlak as the guest speaker who will discuss the efforts of Vernal Pool Conservation

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership)** – M. Rivers will be attending the next meeting scheduled for October 16, 2024.

**CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) –**  
R. Parlee may be ordering Conservation Commission hats that will be sold at the annual meeting.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

Journal Inquirer article about the shortage of wildlife rehabilitators

Hartford Courant article about hydrilla on the Connecticut River

## **8.0 Adjournment**

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall and/or Virtual utilizing Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Brand,

*Leslie J. Brand*

Please see the 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 appropriate \$25.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for membership to the CLCC. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$120.00 from the Professional Educational Training account for R. Parlee and A. Bicknell to attend the annual CACIWC conference. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

M. Rivers made a motion to appropriate \$30.00 from the Dues and Fees account for Early Bird Winter Faire registration. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion that a purchase order be produced for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for calendar printing. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom**

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (present via Zoom), Brenda Cataldo (present via Zoom) and Matt Rivers

**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 Monday, October 7, 2024, Regular Meeting**

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

**3.0 Public Comment:** No members of the public were present, but Sam Bahre had previously expressed an interest in joining the BCC.

**4.0 Financial Report**

R. Parlee shared the Financial Report online.

**4.1 CLCC Membership**

The membership has been submitted and accepted.

**4.2 Pizza for RBV Volunteers**

The receipt has been submitted for reimbursement.

**4.3 Calendar PO Request**

An invoice has been received from Hedges and Hedges indicating a cost of \$9.77 per calendar.

#### **4.4 FY 2025-26 Budget**

P. Van Dine prepared a preliminary budget and sent it to all BCC members. The details will be discussed at the December meeting.

Capital expenditures were discussed. M. Rivers suggested taking an inventory of the BCC field equipment to see what items are needed or need to be replaced. R. Parlee will coordinate an inventory with P. Van Dine.

#### **5.0 New Business**

##### **5.1 2025 Calendar Planning – Photo Selection, Ads, Selling Locations, QR Codes, Print Date, etc.**

B. Cataldo will attempt to have the calendar ready to go to printing by Monday, November 11, 2024. R. Parlee would like calendars available to take to the CACIWC annual conference on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

R. Parlee has visited several locations to sell ad space. B. Cataldo has places to visit tomorrow. M. Rivers will visit England Hardware. A. Bicknell will visit Able Coil and Cropley's.

B. Cataldo added 3 QR Codes to the calendar: The Freja Park brochure, the BCC webpage and the CT DEEP Recycling Wizard.

Brian Popovich from USA Recycling is supplying 150 recycling double-sided inserts to be included in the calendar. As requested, they are printed on Recycled Paper.

5.2 BoS Meeting Dates and other Added Dates incl Cropley's Tabling and Winter Faire  
The BoS meeting dates will likely be excluded from the calendar as they are unconfirmed for 2025.

Cropley's tabling will be on Sunday, December 8, 2024.

The Winter Faire will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at the Bolton Center School.

##### **5.3 Stream Temperature Monitoring, Logging & Data Retrieval Time Frame**

B. Cataldo presented the graph that P. Van Dine prepared for the calendar. The Bolton logo will be added.

A discussion will be held next month on how to preserve consistent data over time.

##### **5.4 Proposed 100-space Parking Lot and Tunnel Parking Area Safety Concerns**

R. Parlee noted that Governor Lamont has committed 70 million dollars for State Park system improvements. BNSP has received an estimated cost of \$75,000 for a 100-lot parking expansion (an increase of 70 spaces). John Bolduc, President of the Hop River Alliance noted that there is

minimal space for expansion and the turn into the existing parking area is currently not safe. M. Rivers feels that the expansion is a bad idea due to traffic and potential environmental impact.

M. Rivers and R. Parlee proposed writing a letter as a Commission listing concerns about the above project. Perhaps the Hop River Trail Alliance could add their input. R. Parlee will draft a letter in conjunction with John Bolduc.

M Rivers made a motion that the BCC draft a letter to the BoS, the CT DEEP Commissioner and the State Parks Department noting opposition about this project. This will be in conjunction with the Hop River Trail Alliance. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

### **5.5 State Land up for Auction (See 7.0 Correspondence Link)**

The CT DOT recommended a parcel to be released for sale. Discussion ensued regarding the potential of parking access to the Nathan Hale Greenway, but the terrain access is somewhat steep. England Hardware may have plans to submit a bid. The Board of Selectmen voted to pass on submitting a bid.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Results Peak Foliage Hike on 10/19**

R. Parlee noted that it was a successful hike with nine participants. There was a new set of box steps installed at Valley Falls with a **very fine, white** stone dust base.

### **6.2 Results of 21<sup>st</sup> Annual RBV on 10/27**

Railroad Brook was the only location with riffles. Two “most-wanted” macroinvertebrates were found. R. Parlee **submitted** the data to the CT DEEP. Herrick Park continues to be a good central location for examining specimens. The 2025 RBV will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2024.

### **6.3 Connectivity Trail through Heritage Park & NHG Parking on Stony Drive**

A public hearing will be held in the future. The proposed bike path through the parking lot at the **Heritage Farm** continues to be a concern.

### **6.4 Collaboration with SRWP – Matt**

M. Rivers reported that the last meeting was held by Zoom only. There is a wild and scenic designation planned. The Town should have received an invitation. **M. Rivers will be including Pat Young on future BCC activities.**

### **6.5 Outreach: Extension # at Town Hall, and New BCC Town E-Mail**

The BCC is sharing a phone line (x 6110) with the Fire Marshall.

R. Parlee is meeting with IT next Wednesday at 9:00 to gain access to the workstation at Town Hall.

The new BCC Town E-Mail is [Conservation@BoltonCT.gov](mailto:Conservation@BoltonCT.gov)

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

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake)** –The floating island is visible on Lower Bolton Lake.

**BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance)** – Ed Pawlak (Wetlands Professional Scientist) was the guest speaker at the last meeting and spoke on Vernal Pool Conservation. Ed Pawlak has a website: [www.ctecosystems.com](http://www.ctecosystems.com)  
His website has a Wetlands Area Research Tool.

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership)** – Discussed above.

**CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions)** – R. Parlee ordered hats to be sold at the conference for \$25.00. Over 25 exhibitors will be present. Recycling specialist Sherrill Baldwin will be attending the conference.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/state-parks/restore-ct-state-parks>

<https://files.aptuitivcdn.com/EzoynNlyL2-1704/docs/boards/selectmen/2024/Agenda/BOS-Packet-11.5.24.pdf>

RBV Field Data Sheet and Photo

Budget Information and Letter from Jim Rupert

Map of Parcel being Auctioned from CT DOT

Email from Meghan Seremet regarding the withdrawal of the proposal of “Wunnee-Neetunah Cave” as the new name for the Bolton Cave. The name change did not garnish the support from the CT Native American Heritage Advisory Board. R. Parlee read from the letter during the meeting. R. Parlee spoke with Ray Hardy about this. A. Bicknell cited a book by Mathias Spiess that talked about the history of the cave.

Photo collage for the 2025 calendar

Farmers Almanac article “Around the House Plastics” [www.Earth911.com](http://www.Earth911.com)

## **8.0 Adjournment**

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 2, 2024, 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

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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.

## **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 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. He spoke with the Town of Ellington composting 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 Building and Grounds Supervisor said 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 sometime placed in them. A. Bicknell said the only way to eliminate trash in the recycling 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 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 work with 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.

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. The warning signs are no longer installed by the State. 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 employee 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 for safety reasons. R. Parlee will pursue this initiative with Jim Rupert and P. Van Dine will pursue it with John Bolduc.

#### **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 Town Hall. 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-blast. 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.

Matt feels that the decking is important to safely cross Railroad Brook. R. Parlee feels that runoff from the Hathaway's house will overtop the decking.

#### **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 will be amended to allow “relatives” 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 sale of 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.

**BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**



**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting held virtually utilizing Zoom**

**Members Present Via Zoom:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo (joined the meeting at 7:18 p.m.), Matt Rivers, Kimberly Fofana

**Members Absent:** Peter Van Dine

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**2.0 Minutes Review** of February 3, 2025, Regular Meeting

K. Fofana made a motion to approve the February 3, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. A. Bicknell seconded.

M. Rivers requested the following amendment to the minutes:

- Replace the word “sometime” with “sometimes” in the first sentence of the second paragraph of Item 5.1

K. Fofana moved to approve the February 3, 2025 meeting minutes as amended. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:2.

**3.0 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**4.0 Financial Report**

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

R. Parlee noted that P. Van Dine is looking into the cost and data sharing capability of an Onset rain gauge that would be installed at Bolton Lake. The item was tabled until P. Van Dine can share his findings.

**4.2 FY 2025-26 Budget**

The item was tabled since no updates have been provided on the budget request.

**4.3 CLCC Conference on 3/22**

R. Parlee reported that a payment request was submitted to the Town for the CLCC Conference and, if paid on time, the attendees will receive the early bird rate. A. Bicknell and R. Parlee will be attending.

#### **4.4 Vernal Pool Brochures, Earth Day T-Shirts & NCCD Plant/Seedling Order**

**Vernal Pool Brochures:** R. Parlee noted that the supply of Vernal Pool brochures has run out and recommended appropriating funds to order more. He added that a 50-pack costs approximately \$6.00. The Commission discussed the various funds available and agreed to use the Conservation Activity fund.

B. Cataldo made a motion to appropriate up to \$80.00 out of the Conservation Activity fund for the reprint of Vernal Pool Brochures. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed 4:1:1 (K. Fofana abstained, P. Van Dine absent).

**Earth Day T-shirts:** R. Parlee reported that he reviewed a flyer from Earth Day Shirts company but could not find an appropriate design. B. Cataldo stated that she looked at other places, such as 4imprint, but the cost is \$12.00 to \$15.00 per shirt and is only reduced for bulk orders. She will consult her daughter on whether she can design the shirts. R. Parlee noted that an order of 16 shirts will need be placed before the April meeting. He added that the BCC spent approximately \$225.00 on shirts last year.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$230.00 for Earth Day T-shirts from the Conservation Activity Fund. B. Cataldo seconded.

Discussion: A Bicknell confirmed that B. Cataldo's daughter would not make more t-shirts than needed. B. Cataldo confirmed that she would only provide 16 shirts as requested.

The motion passed unanimously 5:0:1.

**NCCD/Plant Seedling Order:** R. Parlee explained that the BCC plans several events each year including the photo contest. The events are listed in a calendar the BCC sells which also highlights the winning photographs. He stated that funding will need to be appropriated for photo contest prizes in the following four photo categories: 1) Beauty of Open Space and Nature, 2) Green Buildings and Farming, 3) Wildlife in Bolton, and 4) People in the Environment. R. Parlee noted that the Cropleys have donated \$200.00 to provide \$100.00 first-place prizes for the first two categories.

R. Parlee noted that first-place prizes for the other two categories and second-place prizes for all of the categories need to be determined. He added that that third-place prizes usually consist of an Earth Day T-shirt and bareroot seedlings. The Commission discussed concerns about the size of trees the bareroot seedlings produce and suggested offering blueberry plants and other shrubs instead. R. Parlee stated that the Commission spent approximately \$400.00 in prizes last year with funding that is generated from the calendar sales.

B. Cataldo made a motion to appropriate up to \$400.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for the purpose of providing photo contest prizes in the form of plants and shrubs. M. Rivers seconded.

Discussion: B. Cataldo mentioned that small plants could also be provided as third-place prizes. A. Bicknell also suggested providing May apples plants.

The motion passed unanimously 5:0:1.

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 Importance of Archiving BCC Data**

R. Parlee invited BCC members to meet at the Town Hall work station at 6:30 p.m. prior to the April meeting to review the website and archive options for BCC documents, photos and other materials. He added that he is working with Cam Larson to transfer the data in a secure manner. R. Parlee emphasized the importance of archiving photos from the photo contests that have been submitted since 2001 since they provide historical snapshots of the Town. M. Rivers and A. Bicknell noted that they will attend the meeting.

### **5.2 Complete Streets in Bolton**

R. Parlee stated that K. Fofana has been actively working on creating safer streets and, as a founding member of the Connecticut Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board, he also focuses on bike and pedestrian safety. He described how unsafe the streets are in Bolton for pedestrians and noted that Connecticut had one of the highest fatality rates in the country for pedestrians last year. R. Parlee and K. Fofana would like to maintain this topic as a regular item on the agenda.

K. Fofana stated that she is circulating a petition to install traffic calming measures on Vernon Road, where she lives, to slow down speeders. She added that Bike Walk Bolton has been very supportive of her efforts. Bike Walk Bolton and other concerned residents will be joining K. Fofana to speak on street safety issues during Public Comment at the Board of Selectmen meeting tomorrow. K. Fofana is scheduled to provide a formal presentation at the BOS April meeting and will forward the presentation to BCC members.

### **5.3 Reformatted Photo Contest Flyer & Calendar Sales**

B. Cataldo noted that she removed the rules from the flyer, added a catchy phrase and description, and will be adding the QR code to the flyer. R. Parlee suggested that A. Bicknell assist B. Cataldo with the revisions and adding new photos, including some of the contest entries that did not win. B. Cataldo and R. Parlee will pick up the calendars and calendar revenue from various locations in town and will provide the funds to P. Van Dine.

### **5.4 New Date: Vernal Pools Day on 3/31 at and behind Bentley Library**

R. Parlee shared a draft press release for the Vernal Pools Day, titled "Vernal Pools Sunset Serenade," and noted that Ed Pawlak has agreed to be the special guest. He proposed holding the event on Monday, March 31, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. due to a conflict with the original date.

B. Cataldo made a motion to schedule the Vernal Pools Day event on Monday, March 31, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bentley Memorial Library. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:1.

### **5.5 Earth Day (Mini-Bio Blitz) on 4/26, Kids to Parks Day on 5/17 and Trails Day on 6/7**

**Earth Day (Mini Bio-Blitz):** R. Parlee noted that the Mini-Bio Blitz the Town held last year has inspired towns in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and the Friends of Robinson Park to hold similar events. He added that Friends of Robinson Park involved children in their event and proposed that the BCC do the same this year. R. Parlee explained that the children would be led on a nature walk to observe and write down any species they can identify. He noted that volunteers will be needed to lead the walks. A. Bicknell suggested inviting Ray Hardy to be the special guest. B. Cataldo noted that she has a scheduling conflict with the proposed date of the event. The BCC discussed various conflicts among the proposed dates and agreed to change the date, although M. Rivers and K. Fofana will be unable to attend.

A. Bicknell made a motion to change the Earth Day Mini-Bio Blitz to Saturday, March 19, 2025. B. Cataldo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:1.

**Kids to Parks Day:** Kids to Parks Day, which is a joint effort between the BCC and the Recreation Department, will take place at Indian Notch Park on May 17, 2025.

**Trails Day:** Trails Day will take place on June 7, 2025. R. Parlee noted that Matt Largess usually attends as the special guest, and the event will feature a hike at Nathan Hale Greenway.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 BNSP Parking Lot Expansion**

DEEP replied to the BCC's letter regarding the parking lot expansion but did not address the safety issues. R. Parlee explained that the BOS had also written a letter to DEEP and copied lawmakers which resulted in a meeting being scheduled between the Town, DEEP, and lawmakers. The BOS would like BCC members to attend the meeting. The BCC discussed involving DOT to address potential changes to the road to address the safety concerns.

The BCC began discussing the DEEP bike development and agreed to add the item to the next meeting agenda.

### **6.2 Function of Deer Crossing Signs**

R. Parlee shared deer crossing guidelines from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices in Overland Park, Kansas and outlined their recommendations on where deer signs should be located. He shared concerns about the DOT directive that deer signs will no longer be replaced. M. Rivers stated that the Town is within its rights to post its own signs, and he will reach out to Town Administrator Jim Rupert for his input. The directive was issued based on a belief that deer collisions are down; however, R. Parlee believes the collisions are just being underreported.

### **6.3 Recycling at Bolton Events and Composting**

The BCC discussed the placement of recycling bins at town events and suggested offering education on recycling and posting signs at events to draw attention and encourage recycling.

The BCC discussed surveying residents to assess interest and demand for composting options. M. Rivers suggested educating residents on composting options within the Town rather than purchasing composters. A. Bicknell agreed and suggested providing outreach through flyers and events. M. Rivers suggested distributing a compostable booklet. R. Parlee noted that one of the difficulties of buying composters is that they must be bought in bulk and storing them until they sell can be difficult. He asked B. Cataldo about a collapsible rain barrel that she owned and asked her to send him more information on the item.

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

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lakes):** There was no report since P. Van Dine was absent.

**BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance):** R. Parlee reported that some of the by-laws were recently changed to include Wetland Commission members and persons who own property or have relatives living on the watershed. The BLWCA was also provided with views overlooking the Atlantic White Cedar and osprey nesting platform from Michael Carlo's property.

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership):** M. Rivers reported that he was unable to attend the meeting but noted updates on the wild and scenic designation, conductivity loggers, and MS4 and 2024 Accomplishments reports. He added that the SRWP will be at the Hebron Maple Festival, Machimoodus Spring Fling, and Haddam Agricultural Fair and outlined ongoing SRWP projects.

R. Parlee asked M. Rivers to attend future meetings and provide more detailed reports, particularly on temperature data and conductivity loggers for P. Van Dine. He also asked M. Rivers to provide this report again when P. Van Dine is in attendance and to provide more information on the Black Ledge Golf Course water diversion permit. R. Parlee also asked M. Rivers to upload the map to the website.

**CACICW (Conecticut Association of Conversation and Inlands Wetlands Commissions):** R. Parlee reported that the Commission is closely following legislative bills that may negatively impact the Commission.

**7.0 Correspondence:** Re: BCS Playground Renovation Committee from Casey Carini  
R. Parlee stated that the playground at Bolton Center School is in need of shade, and Casey Carini has suggested planting trees around the perimeter. He noted that the Town requires trees to be above grade by seven feet to prevent children from running into limbs, and large trees would be required. B. Cataldo suggested installing a shade canopy instead. R. Parlee asked if anyone has heard of the seven-foot rule and to provide him with any information they may have.

## 8.0 Adjournment

A. Bicknell moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:3 (M. Rivers and K. Fofana left the meeting at 9:03 p.m.).

Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2025 at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall and/or Virtual utilizing Zoom.

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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## **BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION** **Regular Meeting** **Monday, April 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** **Hybrid Meeting at Town Hall**

**Members Present in Person:** Chair Rod Parlee, Brenda Cataldo, Matt Rivers

**Members Present via Zoom:** Treasurer Peter Van Dine, Alan Bicknell, Alternate Kimberly Fofana

**Others Present via Zoom:** Board Clerk Kacie Cannon

### **1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He noted that Kimberly Fofana is present as an alternate and will not vote during the meeting since all members are in attendance.

*(\*Board Clerk Note: K. Fofana was subsequently seated under Item 4.5 when P. Van Dine left the meeting due to technical difficulties; however, she only voted on Item 5.5)*

### **2.0 Minutes Review** of March 3, 2025, Regular Meeting

R. Parlee requested the following change to the minutes:

- Item 5.2: Strike the erroneous statement from the latter part of the second sentence in the first paragraph that states, "...Bolton had the highest fatality rate in Connecticut for pedestrians last year."

A. Bicknell requested the following changes to the minutes:

- Item 4.4 under NCCD/Plant Seedling Order:

- Change all instances of “bareroot” to “bare root” under the item and throughout the minutes.
- Correct the second sentence of the second paragraph to remove the extra word, “that,” from the sentence.
- Change the vote in the last sentence of the item under Earth Day T-shirts from “5:0:1” to remove the abstention to “5:0.”
- Item 5.1: Change “work station” to “workstation” in the first sentence of the first paragraph.
- Item 6.4: Correct the spelling of Connecticut after CACIWC in the last paragraph.

The Commission came to a consensus to approve the minutes as amended.

### **3.0 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **4.0 Financial Report**

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

R. Parlee provided an update on behalf of P. Van Dine, since he was having difficulty accessing the audio feature through Zoom. He explained that P. Van Dine is interested in collecting precipitation data with respect to droughts and flooding. He emphasized the importance of associating rainfall data with the level indicators at all three lakes for comparison.

M. Rivers asked what the BCC would do with the data and how it would benefit the Town. He suggested determining those practices prior to collecting the data. R. Parlee agreed and asked P. Van Dine for his comments. P. Van Dine continued having technical difficulties; therefore, the item was tabled for the next meeting.

#### **4.2 FY 2025-26 Budget – Payroll & Transfer**

R. Parlee reported that the budget request has not been approved yet. He explained that the request includes an increase to payroll for the board clerk and noted a shortfall this year of \$225.00. R. Parlee stated that the payroll balance will be \$30.00 after tonight’s meeting, and requested a transfer of \$195.00 to cover the May and June meeting.

M. Rivers made a motion to authorize P. Van Dine to transfer \$195.00 from Professional Services to Payroll. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

R. Parlee will inform Jim Rupert of the transfer in an effort to get the status of the budget request. M. Rivers suggested keeping meetings under two hours to save on payroll costs. R. Parlee noted that it is not always possible due to members not reading draft minutes ahead of time and technical difficulties with Zoom; however, he agreed that the June meeting will need to be shorter due to the remaining balance in the account.

#### **4.3 Invoices for VP Brochures, E-Day T-shirts & NCCD Plant/Seedling Other**

**Vernal Pool Brochures:**

R. Parlee stated that the Vernal Pool brochures have been printed and paid for and have been placed in the Library and Town Hall.

**Earth Day T-shirts:**

R. Parlee advised the BCC to be careful when ordering from third parties as B. Cataldo recently experienced an issue with ordering the t-shirts. He explained that the company failed to provide an invoice outlining the amount paid, and documentation providing the amount paid is required by the Finance Department to approve reimbursement requests. R. Parlee noted that, in this instance, Jenna in the Finance Department has agreed to accept a credit card statement from B. Cataldo as proof of the purchase due to the lack of an invoice. He encouraged BCC members to ensure the companies they order from in the future will provide an invoice with the amount paid.

**NCCD/Plant Seedling Order:**

R. Parlee reported that the Finance Department received an invoice for \$404.00 for the plant seedling order; however, he had to complete a form for the Finance Department due to the invoice being \$4.00 more than anticipated.

**4.4 Fairy House building Contest & Mini Bio-Blitz Prizes**

B. Cataldo noted that she is ordering prizes through Amazon at a cost of \$78.00 as well as pens and pads at a cost of \$18.00. The total cost of the items is \$99.00. R. Parlee noted that the Town does not have an Amazon Prime account and suggested appropriating additional funding to cover any shipping costs.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate up to \$130.00 for the fairy house contest prizes, pads, and pens to include shipping. B. Cataldo seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0.

**4.5 100% Recycled Office Paper and Ink**

R. Parlee stated that the BCC has utilized 100% recycled paper for at least 30 years and orders a case of 100% recycled paper every two years for printing purposes. He suggested ordering through the town's Staples account at a cost of \$83.89 using funds from the Conservation Activity Fund. He determined that there is not enough funding left in the general supplies budget and noted that an appropriation is needed to purchase the paper.

M. Rivers made a motion to appropriate up to \$90.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for a case of 100% recycled paper. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion carried 4:0:0.

(R. Parlee seated K. Fofana for P. Van Dine since P. Van Dine left the meeting.)

**5.0 New Business**

B. Cataldo shared the Earth Day shirts with the BCC and noted that she used a waterproof stamp to add the BCC logo to the sleeves. R. Parlee will mail a T-shirt to Ed Pawlak to thank him for being the special guest at the Vernal Pools event. "He also requested that T-shirts be reserved for Marlene Cole, the winner of the Mini-Bio Blitz, and the third-place photo contest winners, and possibly the winner of the fairy house building contest." to read " He also requested that T-shirts be reserved for guest speaker Marlene Cole, as well as the winners of the



Mini-Bio Blitz and the Fairy House Building Contest, and the third-place photo contest winners." B. Cataldo confirmed that she purchased 15 shirts.

### **5.1 Importance of Archiving BCC Data – Rod Parlee**

R. Parlee and M. Rivers met prior to today's meeting to review data stored on the computer for archiving purposes. R. Parlee explained that the Town is working on getting clearance to allow the data to be stored on an external hard drive. He also advised the group that any future correspondence with BCC members or official business will be conducted through his Town e-mail address at RParlee@boltonct.gov. He added that his personal e-mail address can be used for anything personal in nature.

R. Parlee emphasized the importance of preserving all of the BCC citizen science data, natural resources inventories, photo contest entries, and amazing work the Commission has done over the years. He mentioned that the BCC has previously requested three Environmental Review Teams (ERT) and noted that he was recently invited to participate in an ERT for the Town of Hebron to help determine reasons for the Town to fund an open space purchase.

### **5.2 Complete Streets in Bolton**

R. Parlee asked K. Fofana for an update on the Complete Streets presentation to the Board of Selectman. K. Fofana explained that the presentation centered more on the Complete Streets plan for the Town rather than the safety issues on Vernon Road due to time limitations. She added that her husband provided public comment on the Vernon Road issues, and she provided binders to the Board consisting of personal stories, crash data, and a crash map as well as the Complete Streets presentation.

K. Fofana noted that issues related to unsafe pedestrian and bicycle conditions and difficulty crossing roads were highlighted during the meeting. She reported that the next steps include getting on the May 6, 2025 BOS Agenda to work on securing the Board's support to establish a Complete Streets committee, advocating for low-cost safety improvements, and developing an implementation plan. R. Parlee recommended inviting more residents to voice their concerns to encourage action from the BOS. K. Fofana asked the BCC members to e-mail any personal stories they have to share related to safety issues they have experienced. R. Parlee highlighted some of his experiences and will e-mail them to K. Fofana.

### **5.3 Reformatted Photo Contest Flyer PR – Brenda Cataldo**

R. Parlee shared the reformatted contest flyer and noted that it includes a QR code. K. Fofana asked which format to use to upload photos for the contest from her phone and was advised to use the .jpeg/.jpg format. R. Parlee noted she can use Adobe or a free app to convert the photos to the correct format. B. Cataldo recommended that she e-mail the photos to the Bolton Photo e-mail address, which is [boltonphoto@aol.com](mailto:boltonphoto@aol.com).

R. Parlee reported that he has been sharing the flyer on the Everything Bolton FB page on a weekly basis and also distributed flyers at the Vernal Pools event and Bentley Memorial Library. The

library also added the contest on their event calendar. He asked for additional advertising ideas and noted that he will issue a press release in the next two weeks.

The BCC decided to hold an online meeting to judge the photos after the May 5<sup>th</sup> submission deadline but did not set a date. B. Cataldo will send the forms and photos to the members once the deadline has passed.

#### **5.4 Earth Day (Fairy House Building Contest & Mini-Bio Blitz)**

R. Parlee shared the Earth Day brochures and noted that Marlene Cole, a Yale forestry graduate and forest ecologist, will be helping to identify the flora and fauna at the Earth Day event. He stated that the time of the event has changed to 2:00 p.m. this year, and a rain date has been scheduled for the following Saturday.

B. Cataldo made a motion to move forward with the Earth Day Celebration on April 19, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion Carried 4:0:0 (K. Fofana did not vote).

#### **5.5 Kids to Parks Day new date of 5/18 on 5/17 and Trails Day on 6/7**

**Kids to Parks Day:** R. Parlee stated that he has been working with Recreation Director Stephanie Crane to coordinate the Kids to Parks Day in an effort to tie it in with the regatta. He stated that the event will be held at Indian Notch Park instead of Herrick Park. Matt Largess, a nationally-known arborist and retired college sailing coach, has agreed to sail his boat over before or after the event to educate the kids on the mechanics of the sailboat and how to sail safely. The event will take place on Sunday, May 18, 2025 and will include a bounce house and various games for the kids to play.

M. Rivers made a motion to hold the Kids to Parks Day Event on May 18, 2025 in conjunction with the Bolton Recreation Department. B. Cataldo seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0.

**Trails Day:** R. Parlee noted that Trails Day is a national event that the BCC has been participating in for approximately 15 years. The event will take place on June 7, 2025 on the Nathan Hale Greenway, and Matt Largess has offered to attend as a special guest. M. Rivers reported that the access area on Stony Road is looking well-maintained but noted that the parking lot is small. He suggested placing trash and recycling bins in the area. R. Parlee agreed and noted that he observed an unsafe ditch in the area that needs to be corrected. He will e-mail Gwen Marrion to ensure the access point will be ready by June and, if not, the access point will be moved to the area behind Munson's.

A Bicknell made a motion to move forward to prepare for Trails Day on June 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. M. Rivers seconded. Motion carried 4:0:0 (K. Fofana did not vote).

R. Parlee asked if K. Fofana was still present and whether she will be able to attend Trails Day. She replied that she is unsure at this time but will add the event to her calendar.

#### **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 BNSP Parking Lot Expansion Opposition Meeting**

R. Parlee stated that there has been difficulty coordinating a meeting between the Town, DEEP, and Senator Rahman due to scheduling conflicts. Instead, Jim Rupert has advised that the meeting will be held without the Senator. M. Rivers shared the correspondence Jim Rupert provided which included updates but did not address the safety issues. The BCC discussed the safety concerns and speeding hazards in the area that need to be addressed.

### **6.2 Replacement of Deer Crossing Signs Response**

R. Parlee shared M. Rivers' letter to Jim Rupert regarding the Deer Crossing signs and commended him for the well-written letter. He noted that Jim Rupert is not in favor of putting up signs and asked K. Fofana if the signs could possibly be placed through the Complete Streets plan. The BCC also discussed purchasing the signs from Amazon for the Town, and R. Parlee stated that he will propose the idea to J. Rupert.

### **6.3 Recycling at Town Events and Composting**

R. Parlee reported that there has been no movement on getting recycling bins added to Town events. The BCC discussed the effectiveness of placing signs on or near the bins. M. Rivers proposed that the BCC initiate a campaign over the next few months to educate the public on recycling. The item will remain on the agenda with the goal of creating an educational campaign and getting recycling bins placed at events before the next Winter Faire.

### **6.4 Results of Vernal Pool Sunset Serenade & Library Kiosk or Sign Proposal**

The BCC discussed the great turnout at the Vernal Pool Sunset Serenade. R. Parlee noted that it was intended to be a live serenade; however, the peepers were quiet during the event. He stated that Ed Pawlak came prepared and provided a recording of the peepers for the serenade instead. The BCC agreed to hold the event again next year. They also discussed setting up an informational kiosk near the pool at the library to educate and attract more visitors and the potential risks of doing so. A. Bicknell stated that the pool could be advertised as long as the public is educated on the importance of respecting, preserving, and protecting the pool.

R. Parlee suggested providing sign-up sheets at future events so that attendees can be notified of future opportunities and events. He also shared a poster from LandTech, which is a consulting firm that helps property owners to identify and evaluate vernal pools on private property and suggested creating a similar program. He stated that Ed Pawlak may be able to assist and noted that he previously conducted a survey in Bolton for the BCC identifying 41 potential vernal pools in Bolton that could be helpful. The BCC came to a consensus to create a vernal pools poster in the coming year to encourage residents to notify the BCC if they believe they have a vernal pool.

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

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lakes):** There was no report since P. Van Dine was absent. R. Parlee mentioned that the FBL is holding a forum on the first Saturday in May at Camp Newhoca in Vernon regarding the small mouth bass shortage.

**BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance):**

R. Parlee reported that the Alliance recently changed the by-laws to allow Inland Wetlands members and members at large, including family members of residents in the watershed, to be part of the Alliance. He noted that the alliance also includes Conservation Commission members and members from the North Central Conservation District (NCCD). R. Parlee noted that he recently attended the NCCD tree-trimming and planting workshop which provided instructions on how to properly trim and plant trees. He also conveyed the importance of not creating volcano mulch around the base of trees.

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership):**

M. Rivers will attend the meeting later this month. R. Parlee stated that he spoke with Pat Young recently and learned that she and her students have replaced their onset conductivity meter with a new tool. He asked M. Rivers to find out more about the new tool including how it works, whether training is available, calibration, and future collaboration to discuss the use of the tool and why they switched from the onset conductivity meter.

**CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conversation and Inlands Wetlands Commissions):**

R. Parlee reported that the Commission has been following legislation. He noted that one of the most important issues pertains to gifts of open space and explained that when land is going to be developed, a certain amount of open space has to be set aside. The Homebuyers' Association is spearheading the bill in an effort to eliminate the requirement, and CACIWC is working to oppose the bill. The Commission is also opposing a bill to extend Sunday hunting that could jeopardize the safety of people utilizing the many trails in Connecticut.

**7.0 Correspondence:**

R. Parlee shared Ron Beaudoin's article regarding erosion issues at the quarry as well as regular maintenance that is needed for the quarry. He added that the quarry is in a dangerous location near the state highway entrance and is in an environmentally unsound area. R. Parlee invited Ron to attend tonight's meeting but did not receive a reply.

R. Parlee stated that he had e-mailed the Town Assessor regarding a parcel near the entrance to Bolton Notch Park that Gwen Marrion believed the Town might own; however, the Assessor replied that the Town does not own any property in that immediate area.

A. Bicknell and R. Parlee shared their experiences from the CLCC Conference and highlighted workshops they attended on Native American collaboration, racism in parks and forests, and LiDAR aerial photography. R. Parlee noted that BCC members can view the LiDAR data by using the advanced viewer on the Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online (CTECO) website at <https://maps.cteco.uconn.edu>. R. Parlee also shared information on a workshop on the use of

drones that he attended. He stated that 600 people attended the conference and almost 50 workshops were offered.

R. Parlee shared a sign he found online pertaining to fines for graffiti and suggested the BCC ask the State to post the signs near graffiti in Bolton Notch State Park. He stated that the CTDEEP sign states that this type of graffiti vandalism is a felony and shared his disappointment that graffiti is being glorified on the Everything Bolton FB page.

### **8.0 Adjournment**

R. Parlee adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom and/or at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Kacie Cannon,

*Kacie Cannon*

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

Originals Printed on 100% Recycled Paper – Earth Day and Every Day



**BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes from Brenda w PC Prizes**  
*Regular Meeting*  
**Monday, May 5, 2025**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Members present: Rodney Parlee, Brenda Cataldo, Alan Bicknell, Kim Fofana**

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order-** The Chairman, Rod Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**2.0 Approval of Agenda-** A motion was made by Alan Bicknell, seconded by Brenda Cataldo. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on April 7, 2025-**

A motion was made by Alan Bicknell and seconded by Brenda Cataldo to approve the regular meeting minutes with the following corrections:

The motion passed unanimously.

### **3.0 Public Comment**

None

### **4.0 Financial Report-**

**4.1 FY2025-26 Budget- Payroll & Transfer-** Peter Van Dine will be making arrangements to meet with Jim Rupert, regarding the budget and payroll.

**4.2 Vernal Pool Brochures, Earth Day T-Shirts & NCCD Plant/Seedling Order -** Payment was sent for VP Brochures to Hedges & Hedges. Brenda Cataldo received payment for the purchase of the E-Day T-Shirts. NCCD Plant/Seedling order has been submitted to the town for payment.

**4.3 Fairy House Building Contest Prizes form Amazon-** Suellen Kamara placed the order for Fairy House Prizes, through Amazon. Rod Parlee picked up the order at town hall.

**4.4 100% Recycled Office Paper from Staples-** Rod Parlee submitted an office paper request.

**4.5 Rain Guage from Onset-** To monitor the amount of rain in each lake by using level indicators. Lower Bolton Lake monitor has been removed, and Middle and Upper Bolton Lakes are not working. We need to get updates of rain totals and how lakes are flowing. A useful tool for Citizen Science. A motion was made by Alan Bicknell to table this item for next months meeting, and seconded by Kim Fofano.

### **5.0 New Business**

**5.1 Kids to Parks Day on Sunday, May 18, 2025-** 15<sup>th</sup> Annual, to be held at Indian Notch Park at 2:00 pm. At 2:30 pm the BCC will present “Why a Watershed is Important” and what the Watershed Alliance Meeting is for. Followed by a small hike guided by Matt Largess.

**5.2 Trails Day on Saturday, June 7, 2025-** Trails Day is the largest outdoor event in the country! To be held from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, meeting at the Nathan Hale parking area. (Route is subject to change based on weather conditions.) It was mentioned that Chris LePlanc had suggested to plant some trees around the parking area. Before June 7<sup>th</sup>, trail maintenance and placing flags would need to be done. <https://trailsday.org/events/nathan-hale-greenway-forest-hike/>

**5.3 Photo Contest Judging, Prizes and Delivery-** May 5<sup>th</sup> at midnight is the deadline for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest. Photo judging will be on May 14, 2025. Brenda Cataldo will email all BCC Members, with the direct link to view all photo entries from her website and send out judging sheets. Rod Parlee reviewed the

prizes for all photo categories. Brenda Cataldo will go to Cropley's Garden Center, to pick up 2 Gift Cards for \$100, which was donated by Bob Baluk. Prizes will be distributed to Bolton residents only, on May 28, 2025, meeting at Rod Parlee's at 5:30. Winners outside of Bolton, will make arrangements with Rod Parlee for a pick-up date and time.

**5.4 Results of Earth Day (Fairy House Building Contest & Mini-Bio Blitz) Special Guests-** Ray Hardy and Marlene Cole were guest speakers. Turnout for the event was low, due to it being a holiday weekend.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 BNSP Parking Lot Expansion Meeting with BOS, /CTDEEP and State**

**Senator-** Responses lack information to the access of the parking area. Meeting with DEEP, Jim Buckley, RE: Parking area at the Notch. Jim Rupert suggest Rod Parlee, reach out to MD Rahman, State Senator.

**6.2 Importance of Archiving BCC Data-** Where is our data? Peter Van Dine holds data on Bolton Lakes, Rod Parlee holds Bio Assessment data, etc., and Brenda Cataldo holds multiple years of photo contest/ images and results. This is just a small part of data that BCC Members have stored on their computers. Jim Rupert discussed meeting with Kim Larson, about uploading BCC data to Cloud data and whether this data should be shared through the Cloud.

**7.0 Reports: Complete Streets, FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC-** Kim Fafano will be attending the BOS Meeting on May 6, 2025, and will be presenting to the board about forming a subcommittee to Bike/Walk Bolton. The subcommittee will include information on the Safe Driver Pledge, and Interactive Map. Barbara Amodio and Sylvia Ounpuu suggested to have a UCONN student do a Senior Design Project. For more information on Complete Streets, Kim Fafano suggested using Google to look up: Andover CT-Complete Streets, which was put together by Eric Anderson. Kim Fafano will not be renewing her alternate position with the BCC but will continue to be a Liasson for Complete Streets. FBL report, fisheries are looking into small mouth bass in Bolton Lakes and whether they can survive the lake depths. Other items included lake level management, approval of watershed management plan; Is the plan out of date and should it be updated? and preservation of the O'Malley property. Salmon River Partnership Meeting for April was cancelled. Riparian Corridor is a management area that encompasses the surrounding land necessary to protect the riparian ecosystem, 100' upland areas. Clear cut up to 10' from Riparian Corridor. Rivers Alliance hoping to get traction for Riparian Corridors.

**8.0 Correspondence-** Northern CT Land Trust is holding a canoe/kayak trip on May 10, 2025, at 9:00 am, meeting at the Hatch Hill Dam. Bird Walk, held by the Land Trust on May 10, 2025, at 8:00 am, at the Black Ledge Property. Bolton Board Members 101, for

elected Regulatory Commissioner's only, held on May 12, 2025, from 6:30-8:00 pm at Town Hall, refreshments provided.

**9.0 Adjournment-** Next Meeting is Monday June 2, 2025, at Town Hall. A motion was made by Alan Bicknell to adjourn and seconded by Brenda Cataldo. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectively submitted,

*Brenda V. Cataldo*

Brenda V. Cataldo

Conservation Commission Member



# **2025 Photo Contest Winners & Prizes**

**Made possible thanks to the Bolton Conservation Commission**

## **Examples of Green Living & Farming**

1st Place, "Bath Time" -Steve Niemczyk  
\$100 Cropley's Gift Card

2nd Place, "A Gentle Girl Between Milkings" -Leslie Manna  
Highbush Blueberries (3)

3rd Place, "Fall Baling" -William Betterini  
Blue Flag Iris, T-Shirt and Potted Conifer

## **Beauty of Nature and Open Space**

1st Place, "Trail Blazing" -Leslie Manna  
\$100 Cropley's Gift Card

2nd Place, "Pink Beauties" -Sylvia Ounpuu  
Highbush Blueberries (3)

3rd Place, "Fall Reflections on Tinker Pond" -Lauren Coleman  
Queen of the Prairie Perennial, T-Shirt and Potted Conifer

## **People in the Environment**

1st Place, "Stroll on the Hop River Trail" -Jim Adams  
Witch Hazel and Sheep Laurel

2nd Place, "A Walk to Remember" -William Betterini  
Highbush Blueberries (3)

3rd Prize, "Shuttered Solitude" -Rich Fitch  
Cardinal Flower, T-Shirt and Potted Conifer

## **Wildlife in Bolton**

1st Place, "Bumble Bee" -Mary Catherine L. Sonntag  
Button Bush and Mountain Laurel

2nd Place, "Fox Hunting Stride" -Lindsay Pettinicchi  
Highbush Blueberries (3)

3rd Prize, Simmer Phlox, "Vernal Pool Rockstar" -Sharon Wilson  
T-Shirt and Potted Conifer



## Town of Bolton 24th Annual Photo Contest



### Beauty of Nature & Open Space



1st Place - "Trail Blazing"- Leslie Manna



2nd Place - "Pink Beauties"- Sylvia Ounpuu



3rd Place - "Fall reflections on Tinker Pond"  
Lauren Coleman

### People in the Environment



1st Place - "Stroll on the Hop River Trail"  
Jim Adams



2nd Place - "A Walk to Remember"  
William Betterini



3rd Place - "Shuttered Solitude"- Rich Fitch

### Examples of Green Living & Farming



1st Place - "Bath Time"- Steve Niemczyk



2nd Place - "A Gentle Girl Between Milkings"  
Leslie Manna



3rd Place - "Fall Baling" - William Betterini

### Wildlife in Bolton



1st Place - "Bumblebee on Dahlia"  
Mary Catherine L. Sonntag



2nd Place - "Fox Hunting Stride"  
Lindsay Pettinicchi



3rd Place - "Vernal Pool Rockstar"  
Sharon Wilson

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**6.6 Continuing Business**

**6.7 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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***

Brenda V. Cataldo

Conservation Commission Member

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





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

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

**Members Absent:** Vice-Chair/Treasurer Peter Van Dine, Kimberly Fofana (Alternate)

**Others Present via Zoom:** Board Clerk Kacie Cannon

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2.0 Minutes Review** of June 2, 2025, Regular Meeting M. Rivers suggested the following corrections:

- Item No. 4.3: Correct the spelling of “gauge” in the title of the item
- Item No. 7.0: Correct “re stripping” to “restriping” and change the last name “Fofano” to “Fofana”

A. Bicknell suggested the following corrections:

- Item No. 4.1: Correct “2 3 25 – 4.4” to February 3, 2025 – 4.4” and change “had approved” to “had been approved” in the third sentence.
- Item No. 5.3: Add “(west of Stony Rd.)” to clarify the location of the wetlands in the fourth sentence as follows: “There were concerns about getting through wetlands the other direction (west of Stony Rd.) before doing any trail work there.”
- Item No. 5.4: Split and rephrase the second to the last sentence as follows: “Most agreed that the intent of the underutilized Bolton commuter lot was to be exclusively for the East

Coast Greenway. Requiring a sign stating where the overflow parking will be would be helpful.”

A Bicknell MOVED to APPROVE the June 2, 2025 meeting minutes as amended. M. Rivers SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

B. Cataldo asked if anyone has heard from Treasurer Peter Van Dine. R. Parlee stated that he has not heard from him and is unsure why he is not responding. He added that it is unclear if K. Fofana is stepping down from the Bolton Conservation Commission.

### **3.0 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **4.0 Financial Report**

### **4.1 End of Fiscal Year Budget**

R. Parlee stated that the budget has not been approved yet for the new fiscal year and encouraged members to vote on the budget referendum scheduled for July 15, 2025. He explained that the budget submission process was difficult and time consuming and suggested that a staff member assist with completing the budget form for the BCC in the future.

### **4.2 Confirmation of Payments**

R. Parlee mentioned that Jason from Hedges and Hedges was finally paid in June for the Vernal Pools brochures that he did in March. He explained that the BCC approved the payment in March but it appears P. Van Dine failed to submit the request for payment to the Finance Department. He also explained that funds had to be transferred around to cover payroll, general supplies, and Fairy House contest prizes.

### **4.3 CACIWC Co-Membership Renewal**

R. Parlee stated that funds will need to be reappropriated to cover the CACIWC membership fees for the 2025-2026 year. He explained that he attempted to pay the fees in May; however, the Finance Department could not accept an early payment for the coming fiscal year since it would interfere with their audit process. The BCC will need to re-approve the payment of \$75.00 in the near future, and the Inlands Wetlands Commission (IWC) will submit it with their payment of \$75.00 as the two commissions share a co-membership.

### **4.4 Rain Gauge from Onset and/or LBL Level Indicators**

R. Parlee reminded the group that P. Van Dine was looking into getting a rain gauge from Onset. He added that FBL already has level indicators for Lower Bolton Lake. R. Parlee asked if this item should remain on the agenda since P. Van Dine has been unresponsive. M. Rivers suggested that the item be tabled until the BCC has a better understanding of the budget and how the rain gauge would be used. R. Parlee agreed and stated he will try to find out the status of the research from P. Van Dine.

## **5.0 New Business 5.1 Bear Sightings in Bolton**

R. Parlee stated that he has received numerous phone calls about bear sightings in Bolton and suggested providing a brochure or position statement clarifying misinformation and advising residents on prevention methods. He shared an article about an individual who was attacked by a bear when he came between the bear, his dog, and her cub and received minor injuries and refused medical attention and pointed out unnecessary exaggeration of the injuries made by the author. He noted that the article suggested methods of deterring bears including keeping yards clear of trash, pet food, and birdseed, ensuring dogs are leashed during walks, and carrying bear deterrents such as whistles and bear spray.

A. Bicknell agreed that the Commission should work on educating the public on best practices for deterring bears. B. Cataldo noted that DEEP has several resources on the subject, and she will request handouts from them for distribution. The group also discussed various ways to encourage residents to compost their garbage to reduce waste (tonnage at the curb) and agreed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting. M. Rivers will compile composting resources and information such as free online tutorials, low-cost and low-energy methods of composting, and various composters for the discussion.

## **5.2 Recycling at Common Gathering Venue**

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_446d.htm#sec\\_22a-241k](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_446d.htm#sec_22a-241k)

R. Parlee stated that all towns in Connecticut have a Recycling Coordinator, and Town Administrator Jim Rupert serves as the coordinator for Bolton. He explained that he spoke with Samuel Saunders, the Recycling Coordinator for the Town of Ellington, and learned that legislation mandates that both trash and recycling bins be provided at common gathering venues. R. Parlee shared Section 22a-241k of the Solid Waste Management's Regulations outlining the requirements for recycling bins at public gatherings. He noted that when attempting to get recycling bins for the Winter Faire during the Recycling Challenge, he was informed that the public does not recycle properly and creates extra work for staff as they have to separate trash from the recycling bins. R. Parlee will send the mandate to John Butrymovich to ensure recycling bins are provided at future events.

B. Cataldo recommended asking if the Town can provide recycling bins with cutouts in the lids for cans and bottles to reduce the amount of trash being put into the bins. A. Bicknell also suggested that more education be provided in the schools to teach students how to recycle properly. R. Parlee will copy the school superintendent on the e-mail to J. Butrymovich asking about the recycling lids and providing education on recycling in the schools.

## **5.3 Plan Freja Park Workparty & Swap Temperature Monitors**

R. Parlee stated that the water bars need to be cleaned out at Freja Park and the temperature monitors need to be swapped out; however, there is a concern that there is a new beaver dam over a monitor. He suggested scheduling a time to assess the area and determine if the monitors need to be relocated, and scheduling a second meeting to clean out the water bars and address other new issues with the dams. R. Parlee and A. Bicknell will meet at Freja Park on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for the assessment, and M. Rivers will join if he is available. The



members will schedule the second meeting between August 11<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> to complete the work.

#### **5.4 Beaver Solutions for Notch Pond**

R. Parlee reported that he met with Sylvia Ounpuu and Jim Adams and they discussed humane ways to deter beavers at Notch Pond. The Commission discussed the potential of using beaver baffles and whether they are successful. They also noted that state approval would be required to use baffles and suggested funding may be an issue. B. Cataldo will reach out to Michael Callahan of Beaver Solutions to get more information.

#### **6.0 Continuing Business**

##### **6.1 Progress on Archiving BCC Data & Purchase of Flash Drive**

R. Parlee stated that a flash drive is now available to download the Conservation Commission archives and data and asked B. Cataldo to download contest photo entries, winning photo collages, and any other important data to the flash drive. He added that he would like P. Van Dine to download the stream temperature and vernal pool data first; however, he has been unable to reach him since he stepped down as Treasurer. B. Cataldo stated that she will attempt to reach out to him.

##### **6.2 Photo Contest Prize Distribution and 2026 Calendar Photos**

R. Parlee stated that the photo contest prizes were distributed, and he enjoyed meeting the winners and hearing their stories. He asked B. Cataldo to print the collage of the winning photos to post at Town Hall and suggested sending a digital copy to the Town as a small file that they can open. B. Cataldo will print the collage, e-mail it to Town staff, and work on selecting photos for the 2026 calendar.

##### **6.3 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Trails Day Results & Vernal Pools**

R. Parlee reported that the Trails Day was a success and noted that he, M. Rivers, and A. Bicknell were in attendance. He added that there is a Vernal pool further along the trail that needs to be verified and proposed doing a pool-to-pool hike next year for Trails Day. M. Rivers noted that the hike would be six miles long across difficult terrain and it may deter people from participating in Trails Day. R. Parlee stated that people might enjoy the long hike but he will consider other alternatives.

R. Parlee stated that he recently learned from Gwen Marrion that the parcel abutting the east side of the wetlands at the Nathan Hale Corridor Pass belongs to the state. G. Marrion had also informed him that a potential trail has been marked with pink tape, and R. Parlee offered the Commission's assistance with blazing a trail. He is also awaiting a response from her on why the property was not included with the highway property that was transferred to the town from the state.

R. Parlee mentioned that Ed Pawlak reached out to him after reinspecting the Vernal Pool behind the library. Mr. Pawlak reported that the pool had approximately six inches of water during the first inspection; however, the pool was dry upon the second inspection. He was happy to report that the juvenile metamorphosis occurred prior to the pool drying up and noted that it is a productive and fascinating pool. R. Parlee suggested that the Commission keep an eye on the pool to discourage development and forest fragmentation in the area.

#### **6.4 Meeting with J. Hall (DEEP), A. Bergeron (CTDOT), R. Fournier (BoS) and others re: Safe Access to BNSP off Interstate I-384**

R. Parlee stated that DEEP has asked the Town to reach out to the Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss concerns about the safety of the entrance to Bolton Notch State Park off I-384. J. Rupert is working on setting up a meeting with DOT, and R. Parlee will keep members apprised of the progress.

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

**Bike Walk Bolton:** R. Parlee provided a report from Kimberly Fofana which stated that Sylvia Ounpuu leads the Bike Walk Bolton meetings, and Jim Adams records the meeting minutes. She has requested that their meeting minutes be shared with the Commission. K. Fofana reported that several members of the Complete Streets sub-committee met with Andover Town Manager Eric Anderson, who oversaw the Complete Streets project in Andover, and noted that the next step is to meet with the Planning and Zoning Commission to present the Complete Streets proposal. She also reported that the Town is working on redesigning the intersection of Vernon and Quarry Roads to make it safer.

**FBL:** R. Parlee stated that a planned herbicide treatment is scheduled for next week on Middle Bolton Lake. FBL and the Alliance are also working on advancing the Bolton Lakes Watershed Management Plan with DEEP and inquiring about the delays in getting the plan approved.

**BLWCA:** The group will be conducting a strategic planning session to work on the vision, mission and goals of the group.

**SRWP:** M. Rivers reported that the last meeting was cancelled due to technical difficulties and provided the following highlights of the previous meeting:

- Hydrilla has been found in Middle Bolton Lake
- The culvert at Beebe Cove is being repaired and the lake is being lowered for the project
- A solar farm is going in above Route 66
- Stream temperature loggers are out in the streams and they will be attending the Haddam Neck Fair

M. Rivers noted that he has sent the Eightmile River Watershed recreation pamphlet to the Commission members and asked if they would like to divide them up for distribution. He

added that he will provide a pack of them to Town Hall. R. Parlee recommended providing some of the pamphlets to the Bolton Land Trust and the Board of Selectmen and distributing the rest at the BLWCA meeting. He also asked if the map is available electronically, and M. Rivers stated that he will find out. M. Rivers noted that the map is very detailed and includes numerous towns.

**CACIWC:** R. Parlee reported that a lot of the discussion was related to the long session of the General

Assembly this year and the important bills that were passed and signed by the Governor pertaining to CACIWC. The bills include mandatory training for Wetlands Commissioners which CACIWC will assist with, and setting up a diverse working group to work on riparian area corridors.

**8.0 Correspondence:** Bear Sightings in Bolton – 6/30/2025 HC Debate on Hunting Article, 7/2/2025 Email from Samuel Saunders, Ellington Recycling Coordinator, 6/30/2025 Email from Ed Pawlak re:

Vernal Pool behind Library

R. Parlee noted that all of the correspondence was covered earlier in the meeting.

## **9.0 Adjournment**

M. Rivers MOVED TO ADJOURN the meeting at 9:00 p.m. A. Bicknell SECONDED.  
MOTION CARRIED 4:0:2.

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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## History Corner – The Tulip Trees at Valley Falls Park and How They Got There

**A**t the far southwest corner of Valley Falls Park, near the Bolton Town line, there is a patch of some very tall tulip trees. Rod Parlee, of the Bolton Conservation Commission, is an advocate and protector of old-growth forests, and had come across this unusual patch of trees on one of his rambles around Bolton Notch and Valley Falls. In co-ordination with the Vernon Conservation Commission, he subsequently built a trail to the trees, shown as the Tulip Trail on trail maps.



*Billy Darico helps measure the girth of a tree that we believe was once planted by his grandfather, Andrew Darico, Sr. Photo by Rod Parlee.*

But how did that one patch of tulip trees come to exist there in that lonely corner of the Park? It remained a mystery – until the Friends began to delve into Valley Falls history for the Heritage Center. One of the researchers had known about the mysterious tulip tree patch. One day she was listening to an oral history tape about Valley Falls taken by the Vernon Historical Society. This particular tape was an interview with members of the Darico family who had once owned Valley Falls Farm. Suddenly the words “....and the tulip tree plantation – remember? That Poppa planted?” floated off the tape! Eureka! Could the mystery be solved?



*The very, very tall Tulip Tree at Valley Falls Park, now on the CT Notable Trees list. Photo by Rod Parlee.*

The tapes reveal that the tulip tree patch was planted by “Poppa”, who is Andrew Darico Sr., father of the Darico siblings who were being interviewed. Andrew had been the caretaker of Valley Falls Farm for the Beach family in the 1930s. He had moved his wife and 5 children into the Valley Falls farmhouse in 1938. On the tape, the family members talk about the old woodstove in the farmhouse kitchen. Conversation then shifts to the woodlot near Bolton Notch, the source of wood for the stove, and then to the tulip trees in the woodlot.

One of the tulip trees is so tall that it has since been measured to see if it should be on the list of Connecticut Notable Trees, maintained by Connecticut College. While it did not have sufficient width to be notable, it did have sufficient height! Measurements were taken by **Rod Parlee** and **Marty Aligata**. The best part of the story: **Billy Darico**, “Poppa’s” grandson, went along with them to help take the measurements! History lives on. 🌳

## A Great Season 3 at the Heritage Center!

**I**t’s a wrap! Over 260 visitors came out to learn about the unusual local history at Valley Falls and to enjoy strolling the scenic hillside. Highlights of the year were the popularity of the guided tours as well as a special exhibit on Christian Sharps, inventor of the Sharps rifle, done in collaboration with Dan Hayden of the New England Civil War Museum. The Heritage Center will open June 13 for the 2026 season.

### Schedule Your Group Tour for 2026 at the Heritage Center!

We’re learning as we grow. In light of the popularity of our group tours, we have decided to promote more special tours in 2026 for organizations, families or just a neighborhood group. For more information, or if you would like to schedule a tour, contact Ann at 860-875-4623, or [annletendr@aol.com](mailto:annletendr@aol.com); or contact the Friends via the website. 🌳