

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BUDGET: Conservation Commission

Transfer \$85.00 from category Other Prof Services to category Dues & Fees
 (within budget) from 53400 to 58100

PAYMENT REQUESTS

CLCC MEMBERSHIP & CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

\$100 CLCC Membership from Dues & Fee’s Account reimbursement
 \$160 CLCC Conference Registration from Dues & Fees Account for two BCC members
 (Early Bird/Affiliate Rate) reimbursement

\$129.20 for Earthday T-Shirts Reimbursement to Brenda Cataldo from CAF

Earth Day Shirts
 P.O. Box 1469
 Somerset, KY 42502
 www.earthdayshirts.com
 1 877-677-1837

Sales Order

#SO1890023
 02/25/2026

Bill To

Brenda Cataldo
 16 Brookfield Road
 Bolton CT 06043-7209

Ship To

Brenda Cataldo
 16 Brookfield Road
 Bolton CT 06043-7209

TOTAL

\$129.20

Customer	Internet Ticket	PO #	Shipping Method	Ships After
C1236720 860-200-3297 bvcphoto@aol.com	535-SO1890023		Standard Charge + Handling	03/13/2026

Item	Style	Personalized	Quantity	Each	Amount
C-PCLE_CTA100_COB_SM Peace, Love, Earth Day	T-Shirt Cobalt Adult SM	PRS652625	4	\$7.95	\$31.80
Discount	Discount			\$-4.00	\$-4.00
C-PCLE_CTA100_COB_XL Peace, Love, Earth Day	T-Shirt Cobalt Adult XL	PRS652625	4	\$7.95	\$31.80
Discount	Discount			\$-4.00	\$-4.00
C-PCLE_CTA100_COB_LG Peace, Love, Earth Day	T-Shirt Cobalt Adult LG	PRS652625	4	\$7.95	\$31.80
Discount	Discount			\$-4.00	\$-4.00
C-PCLE_CTA100_COB_MD Peace, Love, Earth Day	T-Shirt Cobalt Adult MD	PRS652625	4	\$7.95	\$31.80
Discount	Discount			\$-4.00	\$-4.00

Subtotal	\$111.20
Tax (0%)	\$0.00
Shipping/Handling	\$18.00
Total	\$129.20

<https://conservect.org/northcentral/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-PLANT-SALE-BROCHURE-web-1.pdf>

Appropriate Funding up to certain amount for Photo Contest Prizes by March 10, 2026
 Last year's payment was \$404.00

Balance in Accounts as of 2/26/2026
Conservation Activity Fund \$6029.58

BCC Town Budget as of 02282026
Transfer \$200 from "Payroll Acct" to "Admin Services"

Balance adjusted as of 2/28/2026
 Payroll \$950
 Admin Services -\$200
 Professional Education & Training -0- (after CLCC payment)
 Other Professional Services \$815
 General Supplies \$77.65
 Dues & Fees -0- (after CLCC payment)

Town of Bolton

General Ledger with Budget Adjustments - On Demand Report				Fiscal Year: 2025-2026		From Date: 7/1/2025		To Date: 2/28/2026	
Account Mask: 10050454599????????????????				Account Type: EXPENDITURE		<input type="checkbox"/> Include pre encumbrance		Budget Balance	
Account Number / Description	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Print accounts with zero balance	<input type="checkbox"/> Include Inactive Accounts	<input type="checkbox"/> Filter Encumbrance	Detail by Date Range	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	%	Remaining Bud
	Final Budget	Adjustments	Adj. Budget	Range To Date					
1005.045.4599.000000.51610.00000	\$1,450.00	(\$325.00)	\$1,125.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$950.00	\$0.00		\$950.00
Regular Payroll - Cons. Comm.									84.44%
1005.045.4599.000000.53100.00000	\$0.00	\$325.00	\$325.00	\$525.00	\$525.00	(\$200.00)	\$0.00		(\$200.00)
Official/Admin Services - Cons. Comm.									-61.54%
1005.045.4599.000000.53200.00000	\$425.00	\$0.00	\$425.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	\$255.00	\$0.00		\$255.00
Prof. Educational Training - Cons. Comm.									60.00%
1005.045.4599.000000.53400.00000	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$0.00		\$900.00
Other Prof. Services - Cons. Comm.									100.00%
1005.045.4599.000000.56100.00000	\$230.00	\$0.00	\$230.00	\$152.35	\$152.35	\$77.65	\$0.00		\$77.65
General Supplies									33.76%
1005.045.4599.000000.58100.00000	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$135.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$15.00	\$0.00		\$15.00
Dues & Fees - Cons. Comm.									11.11%
FUND: 1005	\$3,140.00	\$0.00	\$3,140.00	\$1,142.35	\$1,142.35	\$1,997.65	\$0.00		\$1,997.65

McCavanagh, Kathy
Parlee, Rod;Rodney Parlee <captundra@gmail.com>
Andrea Vassallo vassallo.andrea@gmail.com

Hi Rod,

I wanted to follow up on our conversation late last week regarding the process for preparing and posting meeting minutes.

After connecting with Andrea, we've decided that going forward, the minutes will be posted without being sent out for corrections beforehand.

Just a note (in case you were not aware), our clerks are paid for the time they are actively clerking the meeting — from the official call to order through adjournment. Any time spent revising or completing minutes after the meeting is done on their own time. Additionally, as we discussed previously, any revisions or corrections to the minutes can be addressed at the next meeting and reflected in the record at that time.

With that in mind, please hold off on requesting corrections prior to your next meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Kathy

Kathy McCavanagh

Correspondence for 03022026 BCC Meeting

My Corrections in red except Item 2.0 -RP

**BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 02, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Only**

	ROSTER	IN-PERSON	ZOOM	ABSENT
MEMBERS:	Rod Parlee, Chairman		X	
	Alan Bicknell		X	
	Brenda Cataldo		X	
	Katelynn King		X	
	Matt Rivers		X	
ALTERNATES:	Peter VanDine			X

STAFF:	Andrea Vassallo, Recording Secretary
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Members of the Public:

Chris Vandenburg, Bolton resident.

Katelynn King, BCC Member. Arrived approximately at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

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 January 05, 2026, Regular Meeting

A. Bicknell **MOVED to APPROVE** the January 05, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

Discussion:

- Page 5 of 6, Agenda Item 7.0 – Reports: Bike Walk Bolton
Amend the motion to correctly reflect the following:

“A. Bicknell **MOVED to request** Town Administrator James Rupert to contact the CT Department of Transportation (CT DOT) **Commissioner,** ~~Regional District to remove of, and prevent~~ **regarding litter** entering Bolton Notch Pond originating from interstate I-384 under the East Coast Greenway Multi-use Tail by way of a stream”.

Replace with:

“[...] Regional District for removal and prevention of litter”

B. Cataldo **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Parlee, Bicknell, Cataldo, Rivers
Nay	0
Abstain	0

3.0 Public Comment: None.

4.0 Financial Report:

4.1 Calendar Sales Update

The 15th Annual Bolton Conservation Commission Calendar generated approximately \$2,960 in sales.

- ~~(Less)~~ Total sales **that are taxable:** ~\$410.00
- (Less) Printing costs: **~\$1580.85**

A small number of additional calendar sales are still pending.

- Unconfirmed estimated profit of: ~1,353

Unconfirmed balance in the Conservation Activity Fund of: ~\$6,104.00

4.2 FY 26-27 Budget Request

R. Parlee stated he was invited (but not required) by the BOS to present and review the annual BCC budget. He further stated the proposed FY 26 budget will be maintained with no additional increases over the prior year’s budget.

4.3 CLCC Membership Status and Conference

Members discussed the annual CT Land Conservation Council conference and membership status. The conference is a major event for state conservationists, featuring educational workshops, and networking opportunities.

M. Rivers **MOVED to APPROVE** to pay \$100 from the Dues and Fees Fund for 2026 CT Land Conservation Council membership status. A.Bicknell **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Parlee, Bicknell, Cataldo, Rivers
Nay	0
Abstain	0

Alan Bicknell **MOVED to APPROVE** to pay a total of **\$160.00 (\$80/person)** from the Dues and Fees Fund for A. Bicknell and R. Parlee to attend the CT Land Conservation Council conference on March 21, 2026.

M. Rivers **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Parlee, Bicknell, Cataldo, Rivers
Nay	0
Abstain	0

5.0 New Business:

5.1 CRCOG Presentation on the Interchange of Roues 6/44/384 on January 27, 2026

R. Parlee gave a high-level summary of the CRCOG (Capital Region Council of Governments) presentation:

- The 2026 Alternative Design Concept Plan Conceptual aims to fix longstanding connectivity and safety issues at Routes 6/44 & I-384.
- Estimated cost: \$55 million (down from \$80 million in 2013 Design Plan).
- Plan includes property acquisition (including existing apartment complex). BCC members question if the apartment complex is truly abandoned.
- New trailhead parking.
- Improved emergency access on Notch Road.
- The interchange directionality of Route 6/44
- The proposed interconnectivity intersection of Notch Road Extension and Notch Road and
- Funding is expected to come from state CT DOT (Department of Transportation), not the town directly.

BCC members raised concerns about impact on residents, speed control, fire access, and environmental/archaeological reviews.

Member Katelyn King joins the meeting via Zoom at approximately 7:30 PM

5.2 Town of Bolton – Subsurface Sewage System

R. Parlee reviewed with BCC members the proposed subsurface wastewater system routed through Heritage Farm. The project was discussed in relation to existing wetlands, soils, and proposed project timing. The new system is proposed to be installed behind Bolton library/town hall, following thorough review and permit approval by the Inland/Wetlands Commission. Installation is expected prior to the Connectivity Trail project is implemented.

5.3 Herrick Park Soccer Field

- The BCC reviewed plans for a new natural-turf soccer field.
- Key concerns raised:
 - Tree removal and forest canopy loss. Members of the BCC should consider a site walk of the existing property and see which stands of trees will be affected.
 - The proposed use of glyphosate is prior to soil preparation.
 - Composting **with glyphosate** process and environmental impacts
 - Groundwater and nearby stream **quality** protection
 - Lack of bleachers and field layout logistics
 - **Erosion control protection**

R. Parlee stated that he wished BCC had more input on the plan and proposed project and that Bolton received a grant for approximately \$3 million quite a while ago and the town has finally prepared a design. Discussion ensued around the concern of using an herbicide agent (glyphosate) then replace the soil composition with compost. BCC members suggested writing to the Town Administrator James Rupert for clarification.

K. King **MOVED to AUTHORIZE** R. Parlee to write a letter to Town Administrator James Rupert for a project timeline, clarification on the use of glyphosate, and proposed location of soccer bleachers at Herrick Park.

M. Rivers **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:0**

Yea	Parlee, Bicknell, Cataldo, King, Rivers
Nay	0
Abstain	0

R. Parlee proposed to the BCC that any time there is an application before a land use commission pertaining to the augmentation of town owned lands that opportunity be given to the BCC to review the proposed application and provide supporting data or historical context information prior to jurisdictional determination.

M. Rivers **MOVED to AUTHORIZE** R. Parlee to contact the Chairs of the Bolton Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inlands/Wetlands Commission and request to notify the Bolton Conservation Commission of pending regulatory applications relating to Bolton owned open spaces, public lands, land trusts, natural area reserves, including timber harvest notifications. **on the land types listed above.**

B. Cataldo **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:0**

Yea	Parlee, Bicknell, Cataldo, King, Rivers
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Nay	0
Abstain	0

5.4 Lake Street Solar, Manchester, CT

R. Parlee led a discussion regarding a proposed 1.2 MW solar farm sited on 6.3 acres of property in a residentially zoned parcel in the town of Manchester on Lake Street. R. Parlee looked for endorsement from members of the BCC to write an opposition letter to the CT Siting Council. Several members of the BCC expressed concerns about writing a formal letter representing any position for a proposed project in another municipal jurisdiction. Consensus was not to intervene directly but to monitor due to proximity and potential environmental impacts.

5.5 Nathan Hale Greenway

R. Parlee stated that Bolton Land Trust (BLT) blazed trails with approval from town administrators. After the fact, BCC was asked to review the blaze system. R. Parlee stated there were several issues and is writing a letter to Selectwoman Gwen Marrion documenting the issues. Several trees were proposed to be cut **near parking area**. Parlee stated that he spoke with James Rupert asking if there needed to be a public posting tree removal on public lands. J. Rupert stated **that the trees may be a site line issue** on a local road.

Alan Bicknell **MOVED to ESTABLISH** Bolton Trails Day on June 06, 2026, to be held at the Nathan Hale Greenway.

M. Rivers **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:0**

Yea	Parlee, Bicknell, Cataldo, King, Rivers
Nay	0
Abstain	0

5.6 Results of Winter Trails Day

Successful event with diverse participants, including arborists, conservationists, members of the Heritage Farm Commission, and Hop River Alliance. Approximately 15 people **were** in attendance. Discovery of all four hickory species at Heritage Farm and **active** vernal pools.

6.0 Continuing Business:

6.1 Results of Meeting with Dave Buckley i.e., Beaver Solutions, Litter and BNSP

Beavers continue to interfere with trail and water management at Bolton Notch State Park. The state declined to allow installation of flow devices (beaver deceivers), preferring traditional trapping and **physical** dam removal. Discussion on efficacy and ethics of different beaver management strategies; topic tabled for future meetings.

Matt Rivers left at 9:01 PM

6.2 Vernal Pools Day (3/28) and Earth Day (4/25) and Proposed Programs at Library

Discussion ensued around the upcoming programmatic events hosted by the BCC.

- Vernal Pools Day – 03/28/2026

- Composting Educational Event **at Library**– 04/07/2026
- Earth Day – 04/25/2026. Discussion table until next month.

6.3 Data Collection and Transfer Subcommittee

C. Vandenberg to send a letter of intent to town administrators for consideration as a member of the **BCC and** Data Collection and Transfer Subcommittee. Efforts intend to centralize and upload stream temperature and vernal pool data to CT DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) and CIRCA at UConn. C. Vandenberg and K. King to volunteer to assist with upcoming technical data transfers.

6.4 Annual Photo Contest Promo – 25 Year Milestone, New Flyer & Prizes

R. Parlee stated the BCC has a new flyer. The BCC is working on securing donations from local area business for participant winners. Cropley’s Garden Center has committed to donating two (2) \$100 gift cards. **Brenda Cataldo** to request additional gift certificate donations **pending** from Georginia’s Restaurant and **Preuss & Sons**.

7.0 Reports: Bike Walk Bolton (CSP), FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC

BWB (CSP): None.

FBL: None.

BLWCA: **Cancelled due to snowstorm.**

SRWP: None.

CACIWC: ~~Did meet this month.~~ **Save the date:** November 14, 2026, CACIWC Conference in Cromwell, CT. Tracking the new Riparian Working Group legislative efforts regarding riparian area protections.

8.0 Correspondence:

R. Parlee he would like to reach out to Bolton citizens and give away backyard composters so residents can compost throughout the year. A. Bicknell suggested that the composters could be raffled off or given away at the April 7, 2026, Composting Educational Event at the Library.

9.0 Adjourn:

Alan Bicknell **MOVED TO ADJOURN** the meeting at 9:15 p.m. K. King **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.**

Next Meeting is a Hybrid on **Monday, March 02, 2026, at 7 PM at Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Vassallo

Andrea Vassallo

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



Andrea Vassallo’s Corrections in RED from previous meeting correction

**BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 02, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Only**

	ROSTER	IN-PERSON	ZOOM	ABSENT
MEMBERS:	Rod Parlee, Chairman		X	
	Alan Bicknell		X	
	Brenda Cataldo		X	
	Katelynn King		X	
	Matt Rivers		X	
ALTERNATES:	Peter VanDine			X

STAFF:	Andrea Vassallo, Recording Secretary
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Members of the Public:

Chris Vandenburg, Bolton resident.

Katelynn King, BCC Member. Arrived approximately at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

2.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

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Replace with:

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B. Cataldo **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Parlee, Bicknell, Cataldo, Rivers
Nay	0
Abstain	0

4.0 Public Comment: None.

4.0 Financial Report:

4.1 Calendar Sales Update

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- (Less) Total sales tax: ~\$410.00
- (Less) Printing costs: ~\$1681

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Members discussed the annual CT Land Conservation Council conference and membership status. The conference is a major event for state conservationists, featuring educational workshops, and networking opportunities.

M. Rivers **MOVED to APPROVE** to pay \$100 from the Dues and Fees Fund for 2026 CT Land Conservation Council membership status. A.Bicknell **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

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Abstain	0

Alan Bicknell **MOVED to APPROVE** to pay a total of \$80/person from the Dues and Fees Fund for A. Bicknell and R. Parlee to attend the CT Land Conservation Council conference on March 21, 2026.

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Abstain	0
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8.0 Reports: Bike Walk Bolton (CSP), FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC

BWB (CSP): None.

FBL: None.

BLWCA: None.

SRWP: None.

CACIWC: Did meet this month. November 14, 2026 CACIWC Conference in Cromwell, CT. Tracking the new Riparian Working Group legislative efforts regarding riparian area protections.

10.0 Correspondence:

R. Parlee he would like to reach out to Bolton citizens and give away backyard composters so residents can compost throughout the year. A. Bicknell suggested that the composters could be raffled off or given away at the April 7, 2026, Composting Educational Event at the Library.

11.0 Adjourn:

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Respectfully submitted by Andrea Vassallo

Andrea Vassallo

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





Town of Bolton

222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD • BOLTON, CT 06043

Conservation Commission
Phone (860) 649-8066 Extension 6110
E-mail: RParlee@boltonct.gov

February 24, 2026

Jim Rupert
Town Administrator

Rodney Fournier
First Selectman

Town of Bolton
222 Bolton Center Rd,
Bolton, CT 06043

Re: Proposed Herrick Memorial Park Soccer Field

Dear Jim and Rodney,

As Chair of the Conservation Commission, I have been working to gain a clearer understanding of the internal process associated with the proposed improvements at Herrick Park. Our Commission was not aware of the opportunity to comment at the Inland Wetlands Commission meeting held on December 16, 2025, and therefore missed the brief window in which public input could have been offered. Given the scale of the proposed work within an established, publicly owned park, this appears to be the type of project that would ordinarily involve both a Public Hearing and a Site Walk. We were disappointed that neither occurred.

To better understand the proposal and its potential impacts we conducted three informal site walks this month with a majority of our members on snowshoes, to evaluate existing conditions. Based on these visits and discussion at our last meeting on February 2, 2026, the Commission has several questions and observations:

1. Use of Glyphosate and Soil Recommendations

The Inland Wetlands Commission's decision packet included a June 24, 2013 letter from Dr. William Dest, Agronomist/Soil Scientist, to Joseph Dillon, P.E., recommending (1) killing

the existing sod with glyphosate and (2) adding compost prior to stripping topsoil. These recommendations appear to have been considered during the approval process. However, we understand from Administrative Assistant Jim Rupert that the engineering firm did not consider glyphosate a viable option. Clarification on how these recommendations factored into the review would be appreciated.

2. Canopy Removal Adjacent to a Cold-Water Stream and NDDB Area

The Commission is concerned about the proposed canopy removal (clearcut) upgradient of a cold-water stream and wetland complex identified in the CTDEEP Natural Diversity Database. During our site walks, we observed a healthy, mature forest containing several Chestnut trees and unusually healthy Ash trees, free from the Emerald Ash Borer. We would appreciate understanding how potential impacts to this high-value habitat were evaluated.

3. Stone Wall and Downhill Wetlands

Questions were raised regarding the preservation of the historic stone wall and the protection of wetlands located within approximately 50 feet downslope of the clearcut. We also noted several pocket wetlands and would like to know whether any were evaluated for vernal pool characteristics.

4. Slope, Grading, and Erosion Controls

The site includes approximately 38 feet of elevation change from east to west, which may require substantial fill. We would like to understand what erosion and sedimentation controls are anticipated, and how and when monitoring will be conducted during construction. We recognize that your Commission and staff routinely apply appropriate BMPs; our intent is simply to underscore their importance given the scale of grading. We also understand that the soccer field will be pitched to the west, potentially directing runoff toward wetlands, and that space constraints may preclude the installation of bleachers.

5. Parking Lot Runoff and the Bates Memorial Area

The proposed 35-space parking lot on the north side is pitched to the east, but runoff will ultimately flow west toward a “Preformed Scour Hole” adjacent to the Bates Memorial, established by the Town in 1994. An intermittent stream and defined channel already exist in this location. The memorial area includes a picnic space honoring Stan Bates, with a bench, table, boulder plaque, and three state trees representing his service as a National Park Ranger, Bolton Park Director, and Conservation Commission Chair. We respectfully ask whether this area is expected to be affected by the project, and whether a protective buffer can be incorporated.

6. Bates Trail and Potential Erosion

The Commission has expanded and helped maintain the Bates Trail, which runs from the kiosk at the Memorial to a pristine stream and field. Additional runoff could exacerbate erosion on this already saturated trail segment. We ask whether applying stone dust to this section could be considered as a mitigation measure.

Finally, we understand from Jim Rupert that the Planning & Zoning Commission does not conduct technical review for this type of project and that an 8-24 referral is being sought. We

also understand that the Town Engineer is finalizing specifications and intends to meet with us to ensure that the project does not adversely affect the memorial area. We appreciate this coordination.

Thank you for any clarification you can provide. We recognize the significant effort required to coordinate projects of this nature and are simply seeking a clearer understanding of the procedural steps from an Inland Wetlands regulatory perspective. To ensure that the Conservation Commission does not miss future opportunities to provide timely comment, we respectfully offer the following motion for consideration:

Motion: To request that the Conservation Commission be formally notified of all Inland Wetlands Commission meetings at which applications involving Town-owned land, public parks, open space, or environmentally sensitive areas are scheduled for discussion or action, so that the Commission may have the opportunity to provide timely comment consistent with its advisory role.

Thank you for your consideration and for all that you do as volunteers in service to the town

Sincerely,

Rodney E. Parlee

Rodney E. Parlee, Chair

-attached June 24, 2013 letter from Dr. William Dest, Agronomist/Soil Scientist, to Joseph Dillon, P.E and maps showing approximate location of Bates Memorial

**William M. Dest, Ph.D.
Agronomist/Soil Scientist
53 McMullen Avenue
Wethersfield, CT 06109**

June 24, 2013

Joseph M. Dillon, P.E.
Associate
Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates
86 Main Street
P.O. Box 337
Chester, CT 06412-0337

Dear Mr. Dillon,

The report summarizes our examination of the soils on May 6 and 7, 2013 at Herrick Park for the proposed ball fields and soccer field for the Town of Bolton. Included in the report are the soil test results of soil samples collected on the days the site visits were made.

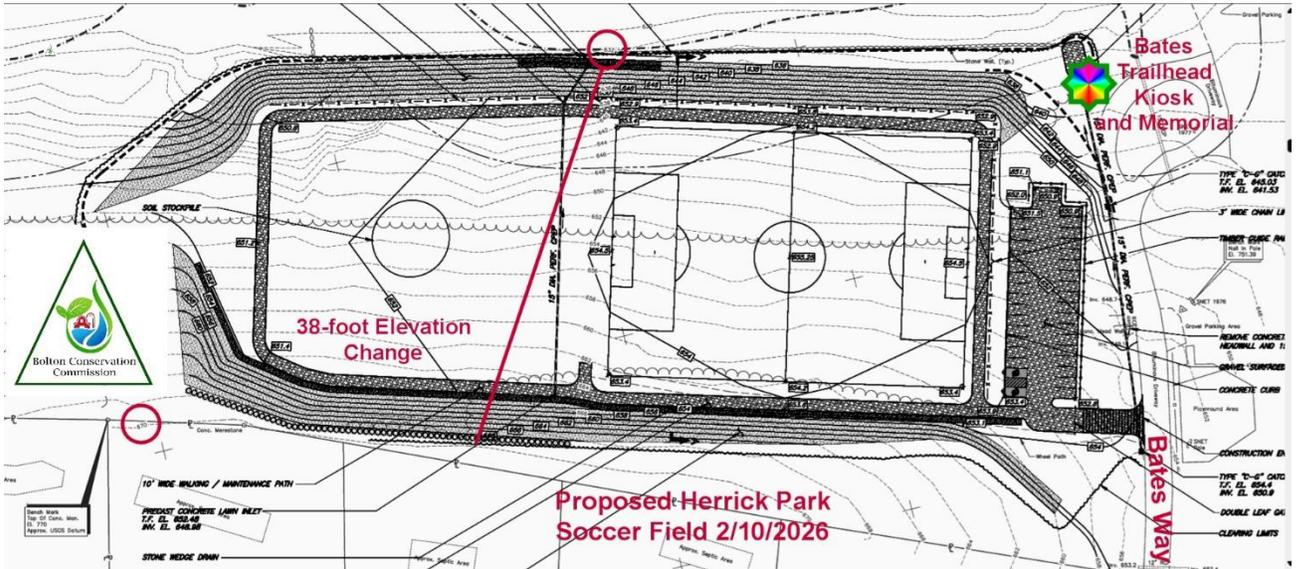
Six test pits were excavated with a backhoe from between a 46 to 54 inch depth to examine the soil profile. The soils were assessed for their permeability (ability to conduct water) by examining soil color, soil texture by the tactile method, soil structure, aggregate stability of the topsoil, visible pores that include channels, direction of natural lines of breakage, and horizons that may impede drainage. Direction of natural breakage is observed by removing a vertical slice of soil with a spade and then tamping the spade on a firm surface and noting the direction of breakage. Root structure of the vegetation was examined and earthworm activity was noted. The need for subsurface drainage was assessed by noting the presence of soil mottles and/or a water table. Results are reported in table 1 except for a 7th pit dug in the woods east of the site. See text below.

Soil samples from the topsoil and subsoil were collected to determine particle size. Particle sizes were determined by the Soil and Plant Nutrient Testing Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts using the hydrometer method for silt and clay after removal of the sand fraction. See textural analysis results dated May 15, 2013. The organic matter content of the topsoil and its available nutrient content is also reported. Organic matter was determined upon loss of weight by ignition. Nutrients were determined by the Morgan Extraction method. Soil ID numbers in the reports refer to:

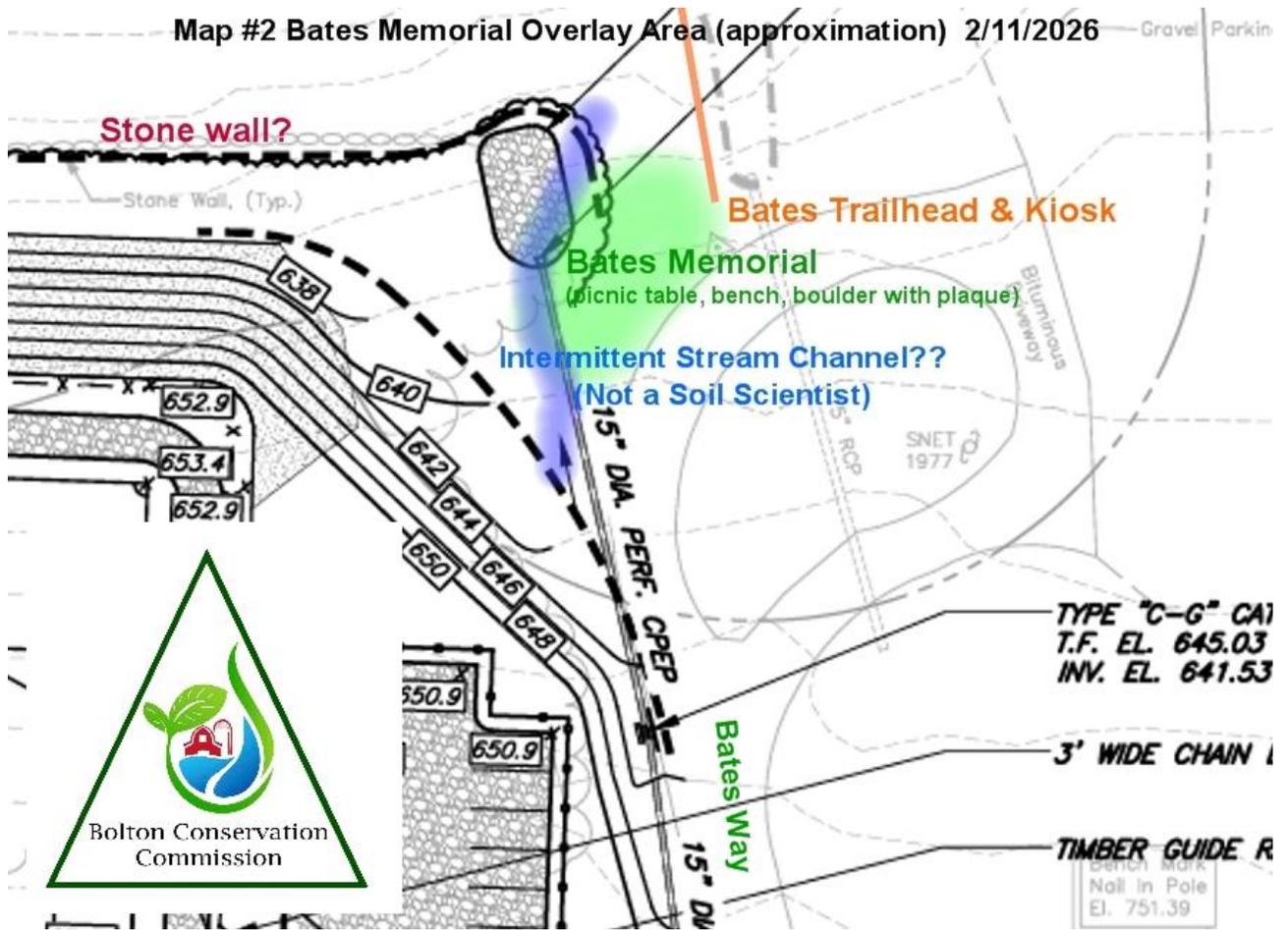
Sample ID	Description
BA	Topsoil (Ap horizon)
B-B	Samples taken between 11 to 32 inches, depth samples collected from depending on test pit (B horizon)
B-C	Samples taken below 32 inches (C horizon)

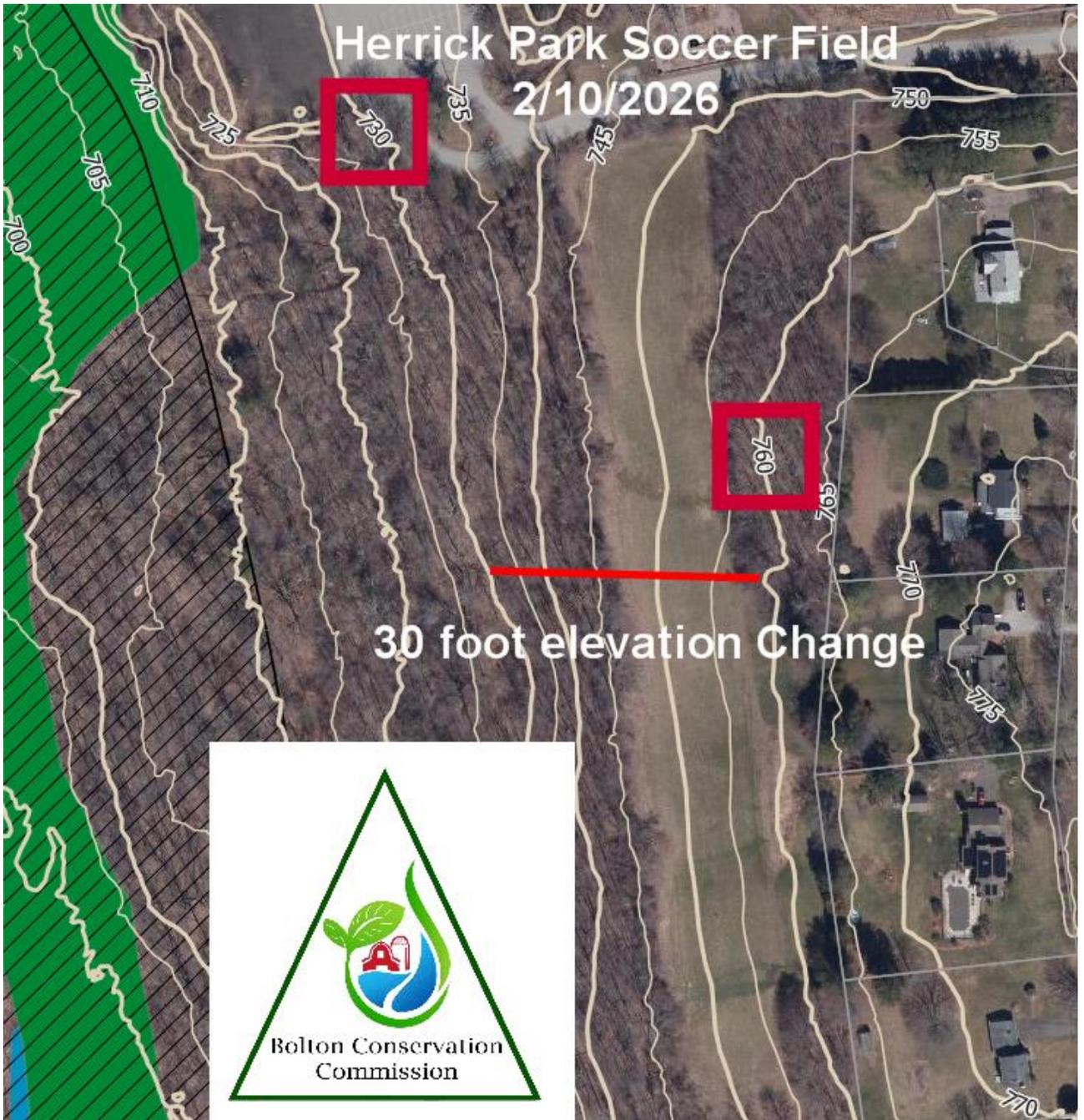
Recommendations 1. Kill the existing sod on the present site with glyphosate. Till the sod once completely dead to pulverize it before stripping the topsoil. The intent is to accelerate its decomposition once the topsoil is stripped and stockpiled. Use a bog harrow followed by a reverse tiller to pulverize the vegetation. **5 2. Add compost to the topsoil before stripping to increase its organic matter content to at least 5% by weight.** The organic matter is presently 2.9% by weight. Incorporate the organic matter throughout the top 8 inches of topsoil. This

will save having to mix the compost with the topsoil off site. This same method should be applied to the topsoil in the wooded area if feasible once the trees are cut and the stumps and understory are removed. Otherwise the compost will have to be added when the topsoil in these areas are stripped and stockpiled.



Map #2 Bates Memorial Overlay Area (approximation) 2/11/2026





Finances.

Jane Simao<simaojane5@gmail.com>
Parlee, Rod

Hello Rod,

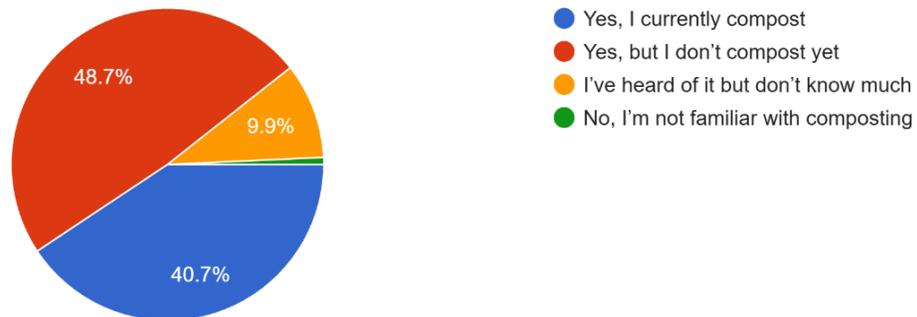
This is Jane Simao, Chairperson of the Tolland Conservation Commission. I am writing in response to the composting presentation you did for us a few months back. Since then, we sent out a town-wide survey to gauge interest in composting. We received responses from over 500 people, most of whom are interested. One item on the survey indicated that many people would be interested in composting but they don't know how to go about it. At our last Commission meeting we discussed this. We would like to arrange a presentation to give people the information they would need to get started. We thought an in person presentation at the public library that could also be accessed by Zoom and recorded would reach the most people. My question for you is- would you, or do you know someone who might be interested in giving this presentation?

Thanks, Jane

Tolland Conservation Commission Composting Survey
January/February 2026 --- 548 responses

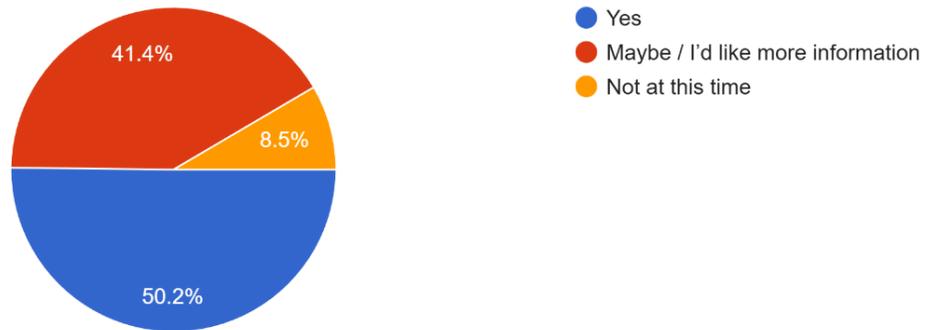
1. Have you heard of composting before?

546 responses



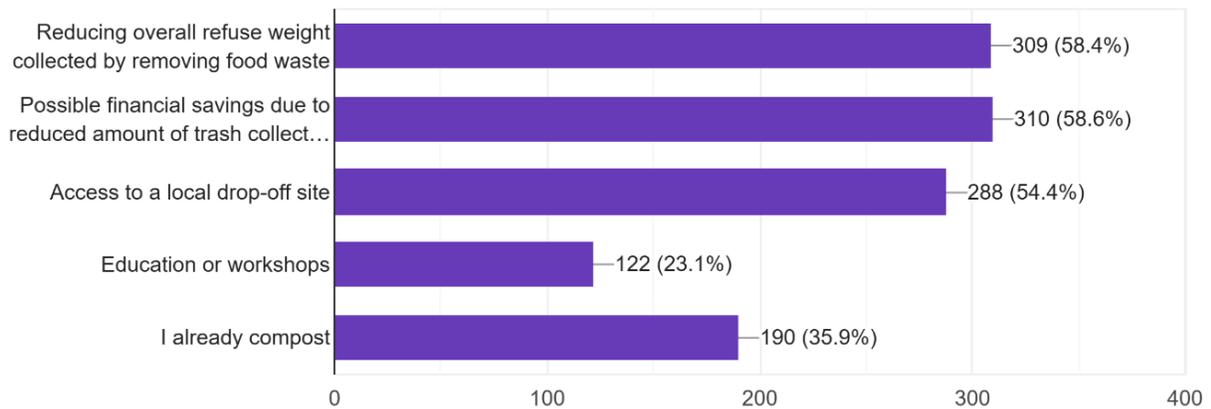
2. Would you be interested in participating in a town-promoted composting program?

544 responses



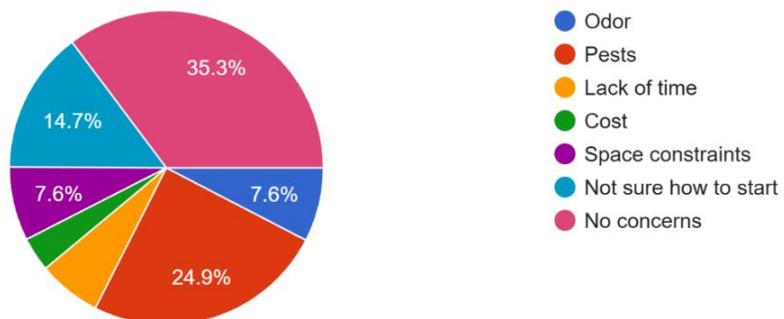
3. What would encourage you to compost? (Select all that apply)

529 responses



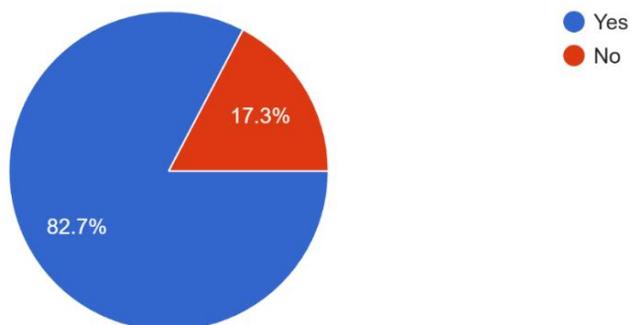
4. What concerns, if any, do you have about composting?

539 responses



5. Would you like to receive updates about composting opportunities in Tolland?

532 responses





Since 2014, the Bolton Conservation Commission has celebrated Vernal Pools Day each Spring, highlighting the ecological importance of these small but powerful seasonal wetlands. Every year we host an educational field event somewhere special in town, inviting residents to experience firsthand the remarkable spring wildlife that depends on these habitats.

In 2025, we offered a Vernal Pool Sunset Serenade, beginning with an engaging presentation at the Bentley Memorial Library and culminating in a twilight visit to the highly productive vernal pool just steps behind the building. The timing was perfect: the forest was alive and participants were able to observe evidence of amphibian breeding activity unfolding in real time.

To complement Susan Bosworth's beautiful artwork, we share this scientific description from our special guest, Professional Wetlands Scientist Edward Pawlak:

"Nestled in a hardwood forest that shares the landscape with roads, houses, agricultural fields and the Bentley Memorial Library lie a small seasonally flooded swamp that retains shallow surface water in the spring. Wood frogs migrate to and lay eggs in these shallow waters, and after several months of metamorphosis, tiny juvenile wood frogs can be seen hopping around the forest. Because of its proximity to the library, and easy access via a narrow trail, this vernal pool is an invaluable teaching resource for nature lovers of all ages."

These pocket wetlands, fleeting, delicate, and bursting with life, are among the most biologically significant habitats in our region. They support obligate amphibians, sustain food webs, and offer rare opportunities for hands-on environmental education.

We invite you to join us each year as we venture into these vibrant spring ecosystems and witness nature's diversity and renewal up close.

— *Rod Parlee, Chair*
Bolton Conservation Commission

Projects in Freja Park for Troop 73

Fw: Scout Project?

Parlee, Rod

THOMAS CHARNEY

Alan Bicknell

Projects in Freja Park for Troop 73

Hi again Tom, Great speaking with you the other day.

I plan to share the ideas we discussed with the commission on Monday.

Just a recap of prioritized projects, some based on our discussion.

- 1. Invasive Plant Identification and Inventory along trails in Freja Park**
- 2. Removal with Commission's two Puller Bear of identified invasives (flagged first)**
- 3. Trail Erosion and Freja History workshop offered by the BCC**
- 4. Cleanout and Installation of Water Bars in Freja Park and Herrick Park (training first)**
- 5. Reblazing of Kempf Trail in Freja Park (training first)**
- 6. Planning, Implementation and Construction of new bridge along Shenipst Trail in Freja Park**
- 7. Resurfacing and Finishing of Benches at Freja Park**

Kindly let me know which ones are doable and will run it by the commission.

Thanks very much,

Rod Parlee, Chair

Bolton Conservation Commission