

# **BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 6, at 7:00 PM

Virtual Only

**Members present via Zoom:** Rod Parlee (Chair), Alan Bicknell (Vice-Chair), Matt Rivers, Brenda Cataldo. Katelynn King

Not in attendance: Peter Van Dine (alternate)

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order** – Roll Call, 7:03 p.m. meeting convened.

**2.0 Minutes Review** of March 2, 2026, Regular Meeting- A motion was made by Alan Bicknell, seconded by Brenda Cataldo and approved unanimously to accept minutes with the following amendments: 6.4 Pullerbear not Polar Bear and Japanese Barberry not Barbary

**3.0 Public Comment** -None

**4.0 Financial Report** - Rod Parlee received reimbursement for two attendees at CLCC Conference. Brenda Cataldo received reimbursement for Earth Day t-shirts.

The Vernon Greenway Committee to hire a consultant for a Vascular Plant Survey for the Bolton Notch/Valley Falls Watershed. Rod Parlee stated the last study was completed in 1993 with detailed base-line data and would like an update. Rod Parlee will submit a payment request and obtain a PO for the approved plant survey with Sigrun Gadwa. The fee is \$700.00 and the payment would come from Other Professional Services. Alan Bicknell made the motion to move forward with this Vascular Plant Survey, seconded by Matt Rivers and passed unanimously, 5-0.

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 Composting & Vernal Pool Connection Workshop- Tuesday, 4/7 at 6:00 p.m.**

Rod Parlee and Alan Bicknell will be presenting this program at Bentley Memorial Library and will be giving information on backyard composting. At 6:45 p.m. Professional Wetlands Scientist, Ed Pawlak will be conducting a Vernal Pool walk, across the street from the library. A sign-up sheet will be available for ordering Earth Machines for \$69.95 and Rain Barrels for \$79.95. Expected delivery of the orders will be Sunday, June 14, 2026, at the Herrick Park parking lot from 10:00-12:00 noon.

### **5.2 Earth Day Celebration- Fairy House Building Contest & Bio Blitz- Sunday, 4/19 @ 1:00 p.m.**

#### **Trails Day- Saturday, 6/6 at 10:00 a.m.**

A motion was made by Matt Rivers and seconded by Katelynn King, to appropriate up to \$75.00 for Fairy House Building prizes from the Conservation Activity Fund. Rod Parlee will send Earth Day event information to Katelynn King, for creation of a promotional flyer. The Trails Day event, previously approved, will be on June 6, 2026, from 10-12:30 PM with a Heavy Rain Date of June 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Participants will meet at the Stony Rd parking area. The focus of the hike to the vernal pool will be on the BCC recording the ecological richness of the greenway and identifying proforestation.

### **5.3 New Dates for RBV at Herrick Park Lodge**

Motion was made by Matt Rivers, seconded by Alan Bicknell and passed unanimously to table this item for next month's agenda to determine date that works for most commissioners.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Proposed Herrick Park Memorial Soccer Field**

Rod Parlee and Alan Bicknell attended Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC) meeting and addressed concerns and potential impacts to the Bates Memorial area at Herrick Park on

Bates Way. A response from the IWC stated they will not be using glyphosate. The BCC had concerns about wetlands beyond 100 ft. The IWC could not comment on engineering of a preformed scour hole, which may be over the memorial area, including trees and picnic area. Regarding parking area run-off. The IWC engineers stated it would only be sheet erosion, and it would be up to P & Z to review the scour hole impact and hold a public hearing to that effect. The BCC is concerned with expansive clear cutting and 25 space parking area as well as 25 foot preformed scour hole and most notably - no site walk was conducted.

Matt Rivers made a motion that on the behalf of the BCC, that Chairman Rod Parlee, draft a Letter of Concern to P & Z, regarding the future integrity of the Bates Memorial Trail, seconded by Alan Bicknell and passed unanimously.

## **6.2 BOS Presentation on the Interchange of 6/44 & I-384**

Rod Parlee and Alan Bicknell attended BoS public hearing. Rod Parlee thanked the BoS for their leadership and urged them to move forward as swiftly as possible. Some items addressed were the suggestions for safety improvements such as traffic calming, the possibility of including a roundabout at the Notch, and permanently protecting and buffering the historic Squaws Cave. Concerns about the dangerous park entrance to BNSP were not addressed, including how run-off (stormwater) will be managed? This will be reviewed by the town and then forwarded to the CTDOT. The BoS will determine final plan on 4/21 at 6:00 PM.

## **6.3 Data Collection and Transfer Working Group – Tidbit battery update**

2023-2026 Data Collection showed great facts on vernal pools- warmer earlier in the season but encountered dead tadpoles with cold spells. Chris Vandenburg will contact Onset for low battery levels on tidbit data logger. Possible battery replacement may be needed for Nathan Hale Greenway tidbit.

## **6.4 Annual 25 Year Milestone and Photo Contest Deadline- May 5th**

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BCC Photo Contest!

For this momentous occasion, 4 - \$100.00 Gift Cards will be given for 1<sup>st</sup> Place Prizes. 2- \$100.00 each, from Cropley's Garden Center, 1- \$100.00, from Georgina's Restaurant, and 1- \$100.00, from Highland Park Market. Rod Parlee also suggested to members to

promote the flyer for the Photo Contest. Alan Bicknell will print and deliver photo contest flyer to Georgina's and Highland Park Market for display. Brenda Cataldo will notify contest submitters of receipt of their submissions. A special meeting will be scheduled for photo contest judging in mid-May.

### **6.5 BSA Troop 73 Project Requests**

Two Eagle Scout projects are being planned. Lorelli Charney's invasive plant removal plan and Nathan Slater's proposed bridge design over the Notch pond inlet, near small beaver dam on Shenipsit trail. Alan Bicknell will respond to Lorelli Charney's email to arrange a meeting to discuss her Eagle Scout invasive plant inventory and removal project. Commission members will plan and assist with project implementation (invasive plant inventory/removal and bridge redesign). Alan Bicknell stated we should support the Eagle Scouts in their efforts.

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

Hop River Alliance Meeting at Camp Newhoca at 7:00 p.m. Rod Parlee discussed ongoing issues with commercial vehicle parking in the commuter lot and litter near Notch Pond, with no clear solution identified. Rod Parlee received positive updates about the Bolton Lakes Watershed Management Plan, which is expected to be approved by DEEP within 2-3 months. Rod Parlee and Alan Bicknell attended the CLCC Conference at Wesleyan University and found the workshops very informative and gained great knowledge by networking. Workshops included topics like environmental legislation, biodiversity and natural area preserves. The CT NDDB list of endangered/threatened species will be updated, and a public hearing is expected in two months according to workshop facilitator Bill Moorehead.

### **8.0 Correspondence- none**

**9.0 Adjournment** – A motion was made to adjourn by Matt Rivers, seconded by Katelynn King and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. Next BCC Meeting will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brenda V. Cataldo*

Brenda V. Cataldo  
Conservation Commission Member



*Originals Printed on 100% Recycled Paper—Earth Day and Every Day* 

## 25th Annual Photo Contest Prizes for 2026

### 1. Examples of Green Living

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$100 Cropley's Garden Center Gift Card
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Highbush Blueberry (1 gallon, set of three)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Rhododendron (2-gallon), Earth Day Everyday T-shirt,

### 2. Beauty of Nature & Open Space

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$100 Cropley's Garden Center Gift Card
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Eastern Redbud Tree (3 gallon)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Highbush Cranberry (2 gallon), Earth Day Everyday T-shirt

### 3. People in the Environment

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$100 Georgina's Italian Restaurant Gift Card
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Jostaberry (3 gallon), Earth Day Everyday T-shirt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Bearberry (Massachusetts 1-gallon)

### 4. Wildlife in Bolton

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$100 Highland Park Market Gift Card
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Raspberry (Caroline-2 gallon), Earth Day Everyday T-shirt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Mountain Laurel (Bullseye- 1 gallon), Earth Day Everyday T-shirt

\*Prizes are subject to change



**BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**25TH ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE PHOTO CONTEST**  
**Submission Deadline is May 5th!**

**Share your images, of what makes our little town of Bolton so special!**  
The town offers many scenic places to photograph such as pristine old forests, a tranquil lake, picturesque ponds, parks, hiking and biking trails, land trust properties, and productive farmland.  
Catch a dramatic sunrise or a vibrant sunset.  
Winners may also be featured in "A Calendar For All Seasons" 2027 Calendar!

**Email photos to: \$100.00 Gift Cards**  
**BoltonPhoto@aol.com for all four first-prize categories!**

**Image categories:**  
1) Examples of Green Living  
2) Beauty of Nature & Open Space  
3) People in the Environment  
4) Wildlife in Bolton



*Earth Machine Composter on display now at Bentley Library*



RiverCOG Region

# Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale



### The Earth Machine™

Up to 50% of all household waste can be composted right in your back yard with EARTH MACHINE™!

- Lightweight and easy to assemble
- Adjustable ventilation
- Conical shape for easy removal
- Twist locking pest-resistant lid
- Easy access retrieval door
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**50% Off Retail Offer Ends Soon!**

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### System Rain Barrel

Rainwater, free from chemicals, is an excellent water source for lawns, plants and gardens.

- 55 Gallon (208 litre) capacity
- Conserve municipal water supply
- Cuts household water bills by up to 40%
- Unique shape and neutral colour blends in to any garden scape
- Made of up to 50% recycled materials
- Incorporated mosquito mesh
- Easily accommodates existing downspouts
- Overflow capability and can be linked to another SYSTEM
- Accessories included

ONLY

**\$ 79.95**

**Essex:** 145 Dennison Road, Essex, CT (parking in the back) **Date:** Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> **Time:** 1:30pm – 3:30pm

**Bolton - Herrick Park,** 29 Hebron Road, Bolton, CT 06043 **Date:** Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> **Time:** 10:00am - 12:00 Noon

**Middletown - City of Middletown,** City Yard, 485 Washington St, Middletown, CT 06457

**Date:** Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> **Time:** 10:00am - 12:00pm

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# NATIONAL KIDS TO PARKS DAY



ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN  
SUNDAY'S EVENTS.



**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026**

**10:00AM – 11:30AM: HIKE AT FREJA PARK**

Learn more about Freja Park as we follow park perimeter to the new R.R. Brook Bridge and back by way of the Shenipsit Trail. Dive deep into the park flora and fauna, and new projects planned for the park to control the spread of invasive plants.

1.2 miles total. Dogs prohibited, proper footwear and clothing encouraged.  
No registration required. Meet at the Commuter Lot (Kempf/Shenipsit Trailhead).  
Group departs at 10:10am.

**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026**

**2:00PM – 4:00PM: FIELD DAY AT INDIAN NOTCH PARK**

Visit local Bolton resources tables to learn more about our local organizations, such as the Bolton Prevention Council, take part in the Conservation Commissions' Recycling Challenge, and participate in our nature scavenger hunts and activities (available for all on a first come - first serve basis).

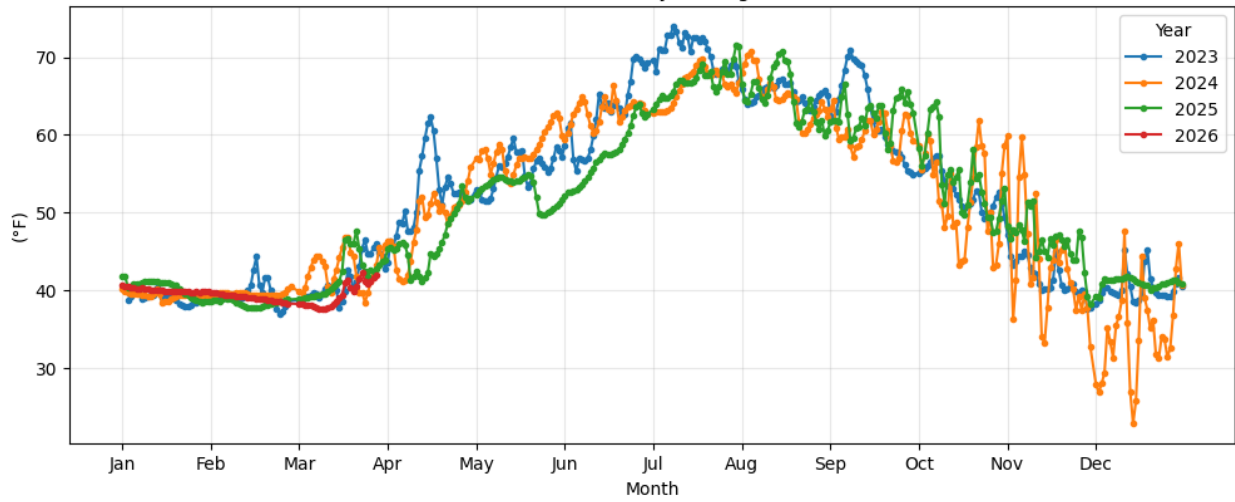


**KIDS TO  
PARKS DAY**  
NATIONAL PARK TRUST

BOLTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
Carter Cocharo (860) 649-8066 ext.6109 / ccocharo@boltonct.gov

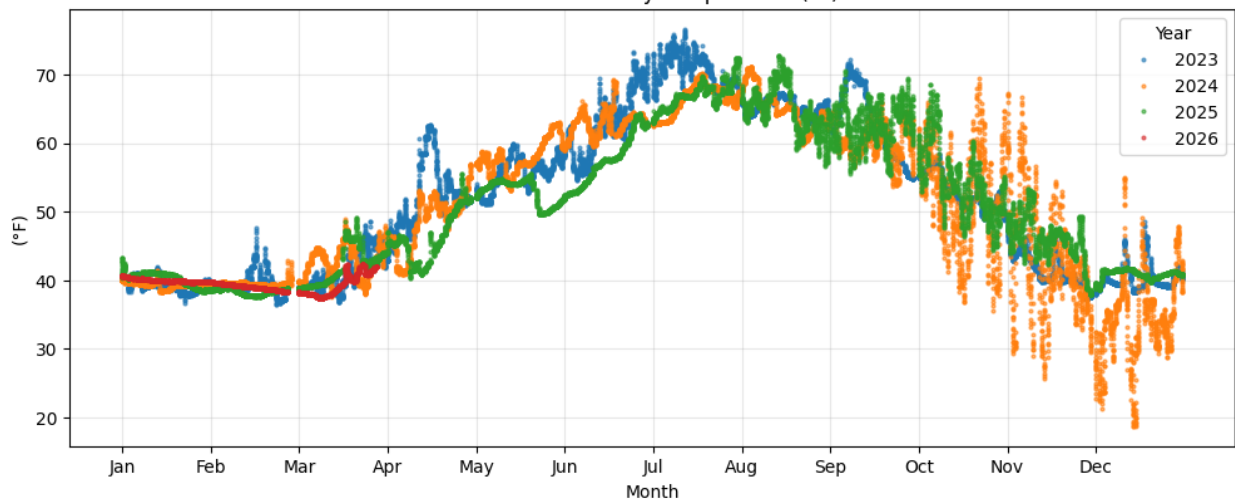


Vernal Pool Daily Average (°F)



2023 → 2024 (Full Year): 52.20°F → 51.20°F (-1.9%)  
 2024 → 2025 (Full Year): 51.11°F → 51.21°F (+0.2%)  
 2025 → 2026 (1/1 → 3/27): 40.10°F → 39.44°F (-1.6%)

Vernal Pool Hourly Temperature (°F)



2023 → 2024 (1/4 → 12/31 vs full 2024): 52.20°F → 51.11°F (-2.1%)  
 2024 → 2025 (1/4 → 6/18): 47.50°F → 45.21°F (-4.8%)  
 2025 → 2026 (1/1 → 3/27): 40.10°F → 39.44°F (-1.6%)



PART NUMBER - MX2203

## HOBOTidbit MX Temperature 400-ft Data Logger

Bluetooth

\$165.00

A waterproof temperature logger with water detect feature and Bluetooth wireless offload to deliver high-accuracy data straight to your mobile device or Windows computer via the HOBObconnect app.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Requires a compatible mobile device or Windows computer and the [HOBObconnect](#) app. System requirements for the app can be found at the bottom of the [HOBObconnect software page](#).

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