

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			

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) ~~Regional District to remove of, and prevent~~ litter from entering Bolton Notch Pond originating from interstate I-384 under the East Coast Greenway Multi-use Trail 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 tax: ~\$410.00
- (Less) Printing costs: ~\$1681

A small number of additional calendar sales are still pending.

- Unconfirmed estimated profit of: ~1,253

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 \$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 Rous 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 process and environmental impacts
 - Groundwater and nearby stream protection
 - Lack of bleachers and field layout logistics

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
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. 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 that trees are site line issues 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 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 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 – 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 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. Additional gift certificate donations pending from Georgia's Restaurant and Prices.

7.0 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.

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

