

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine and Alternate Matt Rivers (seated for Alan Bicknell)

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order**

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

**2.0 Minutes Review of June 6, 2022, and July 7, 2022 Regular Meetings**

**June 6, 2022:**

M. Rivers made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**July 7, 2022:**

**Under 5.2**, in the last sentence of the second paragraph, remove the word rusty.

**Under 6.3**, clarify that POCD is Plan of Conservation and Development

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0

**3.0 Public Comment:** None

**4.0 Financial Report**

**4.1 Spray Paint Payment**

The town account at England Hardware was used for the first time to purchase spray paint. P. Van Dine submitted the request for payment to the town.

**4.2 CACIWC Membership**

This is a dual membership between the IWC (Inland Wetlands Commission) and the BCC.

P. Van Dine made a motion that the BCC pay \$75.00 for their portion of the CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inlands Wetlands Commissions) sustaining membership. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**4.3 Clickable Forms**

Jenna Matos sent P. Van Dine clickable PDF forms that can be filled out online. One of the forms will be used for the \$75.00 CACIWC membership.

#### **4.4 New FY Budget**

R. Parlee noted that the budget for FY 2023 has passed.

#### **5.0 New Business**

##### **5.1 Stream Temperature Monitoring Update**

A. Bicknell, R. Parlee and P. Van Dine met at the vernal pool with folks who had metal detectors that work underwater. They were able to locate the tidbit by listening to the different sounds that the metal detector made. The tidbit and its data were retrieved. There were significant differences between 2021 and 2022. P. Van Dine will forward the informational graphs to the BCC members.

J. Laughman asked if the drought has affected the water level in the vernal pool. R. Parlee said that the vernal pool is quite dry but the tidbit is tied with fishing line and secured with rebar in the deepest section.

The tidbit in Baker Brook is still lost but may be able to be found now that water levels are lower.

##### **5.2 Calendar Planning – Brenda**

B. Cataldo noted that she is disappointed with the calendar this year. The pictures don't pop and there is trouble coming up with a winter related cover.

P. Van Dine made a motion that BCC members be allowed to take pictures to be included in the calendar. The pictures would undergo the same scrutiny as the photos submitted in the photo contest. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

B. Cataldo requested that member photos be submitted to her by August 15, 2022.

The IWC has set their meeting dates for 2023. P. Van Dine suggested that R. Parlee send out the dates of the BCC events to all members for review. Dates will be approved at the September meeting.

The calendar should go to the printer by October 15, 2022 so that the calendars are ready for distribution by November 1, 2022.

##### **5.3 Approve Photo Release Form for BCC Events**

R. Parlee shared the draft of the Photo Release Form online. Edits were discussed. The finalized version will need to be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the edited version of the photo release form including the use of the Town seal if approved by the Town Clerk. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

#### **5.4 Election of Treasurer 2023**

M. Rivers made a motion to elect P. Van Dine as Treasurer for the current fiscal year. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

#### **5.5 Bolton Greater Together Community Fund**

The grant deadline is October. J. Laughman asked where the funds come from. R. Parlee stated that the funds come from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. BOS approval would have to be obtained before applying for the grant. R. Parlee suggested purchasing earth machines with the grant money as it would be a good way to start a composting initiative. There was discussion about selling the composters at cost to townspeople or using them for photo contest prizes. Discussion will continue in September.

#### **6.0 Continuing Business**

##### **6.1 2022 Photo Contest Winning Results Collage and 2023 Photo Contest Flyer**

So far, the collage has only been shared with the winners of the photo contest but not yet posted on the Town Webpage, Town Bulletin or Town Facebook page. R. Parlee and B. Cataldo will coordinate posting a physical copy of the collage at the library and the Town Hall.

J. Laughman suggested removing the wording about delivery in the photo contest flyer. Delivery method can be determined at the end of the contest.

##### **6.2 Noise Pollution in Bolton**

An Email was sent to R. Parlee from Ron Beaudoin. R. Parlee read the Email aloud. R. Parlee spoke with a town employee who lives in the area and confirmed that the noise is a problem. Discussion will continue next month.

##### **6.3 Review of POCD Section on Protect Water Resource Plan “Policy and Actions Steps” IWC and CC as Leaders or Partners**

R. Parlee sent out a draft letter to all BCC members. P. Van Dine will forward a draft outline to BCC members before the September meeting. R. Parlee noted that cooperation with the Inlands Wetland Commission is important. P. Van Dine welcomes input from other BCC members.

##### **6.4 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP and CACIWC and Trails Committee Reports**

**FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake)**-There was no meeting in July. A new member from Vernon suggested a program called “Libraries Love Lakes”. A reading will be done for children and young adults at the Bolton and Vernon libraries. Books will be donated to each library.

The monitoring program is going forward.

P. Van Dine noted that there was a clearcut done on two properties on the north shore of Bolton Lake. The properties have access to the water and are located in Bolton and Vernon. This was done in order to create a view to the lake. The clearcut is significant and included a large amount of big trees. It has been reported through Ryan Goad, a member of the Vernon Wetlands

Commission, to the authorities in Vernon. The pictures that R. Parlee took were forwarded to the Inland Wetlands Agent in Vernon.

**BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance)**-The next meeting is Wednesday, August 10, 2022. Michael Carlo, an Eversource employee, knows of a grant program to obtain funds from Eversource to be used for osprey platforms.

The upland review area and the watershed management program are being discussed. A watershed boundary sign has been posted in Bolton on Route 44 heading east.

**SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership)**-M. Rivers reported that the long-term visioning continues. They are working with Colchester to obtain a brownfield assessment grant. They are scrutinizing the MS4 partnership. P. Van Dine noted that if the BCC wants to do something with MS4, the SRWP would be a good resource. M. Rivers will find out who the MS4 contact is.

**CACIWC**-R. Parlee noted that the annual meeting will be held on October 29, 2022. Up to thirty tabletop exhibits will be there including the BCC. Wetlands training continues for wetlands agents and commissioners. R. Parlee is looking into the possibility that the on-line training may suggest clearcutting is allowed in wetlands.

**Trails Committee**- R. Parlee noted that there have not been any recent meetings. R. Parlee and M. Rivers used four cans of spray paint to cover the red and blue spray paint that was on trees in Freja Park, leading to the sand pit and the Preuss's property. It continued on for two to three miles. M. Rivers noted that the marking up of the trees was widespread and it was a lot of work to cover the vandal's actions. R. Parlee spoke about the vandalism with resident trooper Messier and Vernon Parks and Recreation Director Marty Sitler. R. Parlee and M. Rivers may take another look to see if there has been further damage. Many townspeople are willing to keep their eyes open and report damage.

John Bolduc from the Hop River Alliance proposed a detailed erosion control plan for the Mohegan Trail trailhead closet to the Tunnel parking area. R. Parle asked if "Flag Rock" was an appropriate trailhead sign. By consensus, everyone agreed that it would be the wrong title since it is illegal and unsafe graffiti in a State Park. J. Laughman felt that the flag painted on the rocks should be sandblasted off. It was agreed that a sign should be posted calling it the "Bolton Notch State Park Overlook".

## **7.0 Correspondence**

CACIWC Dues Renewal Form

Draft of the Photo Release Form

Community Fund Grant RFP

2022-23 Photo Contest Flyer

## POCD Talking Points and Map of Trail Damage

B. Cataldo emailed proposed calendar picture selections to the commission members.

### **8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice**

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

### **9.0 Adjournment**

B. Cataldo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

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 that the BCC pay \$75.00 for their portion of the CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inlands Wetlands Commissions) sustaining membership. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.