

**BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023, 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Rodney Parlee – Chairman, C. Peter VanDine – Vice Chair (Arrived at 7:07 & left early), Alan Bicknell, and Matthew Rivers

Others Present: Chloe Edwards – CT DEEP and Mary Becker – CT DEEP

Absent: Brenda Cataldo

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call: R. Parlee called this meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2.0 Minutes Review of November 2, 2023, Regular Meeting: In section 6.6, “Meeting in November with EnCon Sergeant ~~Johnson~~ Johnston. R. Parlee clarified that it is Sergeant ~~Johnson~~ Johnston.”

By roll call vote, PASSES 3:0:1. A. Bicknell ABSTAINED.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 Payments to CACIWC, Georgina’s, Hedges & Hedges and Rec Dept.: P. VanDine mentioned he couldn’t put it together yet. R. Parlee said they will table this until the next meeting.

4.2 Consider Duffle for Kick Nets and Cover for Puller Bears: R. Parlee said he doesn’t have an estimate for the duffle for the kick nets, so this will be tabled for the next meeting. P. VanDine doesn’t feel it is necessary to get a cover for the puller bears.

5.0 New Business:

5.1 Special Guest Chloe Edwards of CT DEEP on Update of RBV Program: C. Edwards announced they will be handling the RBV (Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers) Program. R. Parlee said he noticed a lot fewer macro vertebrates and wondered if they should continue to utilize existing sites or look for new

ones. A. Bicknell wondered if others may be experiencing this as well. C. Edwards said RBV wouldn't be able to answer questions about changing stream quality or why the results might look different. C. Edwards recommended using another monitoring protocol, such as organizing a stream walk. M. Becker explained that there are a lot of different factors as to why you may not be finding the critters you had in the past, but it doesn't always mean bad water quality. M. Rivers asked if there are best practices for siting and sampling. M. Becker recommended higher gradient waters and recommended sampling from Railroad Brook and stated it supports Tinkerhouzen. R. Parlee asked if they should do any further testing in French Brook. M. Becker recommended testing above and below the farm and going downstream a bit.

5.2 14th Annual Town-Wide Calendar – Distribution, Flyer & Ad

Sponsorship: R. Parlee announced they sold 19 calendars at the Winter Faire. He said he would like to distribute calendars tomorrow to local businesses. A. Bicknell MOVED to move up to \$500 out of the activity fund to purchase calendars if necessary. M. Rivers SECONDED. By roll call, passes UNANIMOUS 3:0:0.

5.3 Calendar Insert from AllAmericanWaste.com: R. Parlee stated that each calendar has a flyer from AllAmericanWaste.

5.4 Recycling Webinar by City of New Haven attended by Brenda Cataldo:

R. Parlee presented a PowerPoint presentation from the webinar B. Cataldo attended and discussed key points with members of the Commission. R. Parlee recommended adding RecycleCT Wizard to the Bolton Town website.

5.5 Draft Annual Report for FY 22-23: R. Parlee announced that he is going through the minutes of past meetings to see what the Commission has accomplished this year and will send the draft to members to review when he is finished.

6.0 Continuing Business:

6.1 Winter Trails Day on Saturday, January 13, 2024 – Rain Date: R. Parlee announced the rain date will be January 14, 2024. R. Parlee recommended a plan to members for the Winter Trails Day, and everyone agreed to the plan, and they will meet for 10AM.

6.2 Stream Temperature/Vernal Pool Monitoring Update & Equipment Inventory: This is tabled for the next meeting.

6.3 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports: FBL is tabled for the next meeting. R. Parlee announced that the next BLWCA meeting will be December 13, 2023, with special guest Eric Thomas. M. Rivers announced that the next SRWP meeting will be December 20, 2023. R. Parlee asked A. Bicknell how the CACIWC meeting went, and A. Bicknell told members of his experience.

7.0 Correspondence – 2024-25 Budget Proposal, Meeting with EnCon Police 1/10, Email to Bolton Wetlands Agent: R. Parlee recommended increasing payroll due to raises in the Board Clerk's pay and increasing Professional Educational Training due to the increase in cost of conferences, etc. M. Rivers MOVED to propose the budget with an additional \$100 in Payroll and an additional \$100 in Professional Educational Training. A. Bicknell SECONDED. By roll call vote, passes UNANIMOUSLY 3:0:0.

R. Parlee shared that he set up a meeting on 1/10 at 10:30 AM to advocate for safe usage of our trails and more police presence on the trails. A. Bicknell and M. Rivers stated they didn't know how that would be possible. M. Rivers recommended volunteer Rangers instead.

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice: No invoice. Tabled for the next meeting.

9.0 Adjournment – Next Meeting is January 4, 2024: R. Parlee adjourned this meeting at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ashleigh N. Johnson, Board Clerk

Ashleigh N. Johnson

PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.