

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 4, at 7:00 PM
Bolton Town Hall & Zoom

Members in Attendance: Rod Parlee (Chair), Matt Rivers, Katelynn King
Public: Chris Vandenburg
Present Via Zoom: Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo
Not in Attendance: Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of April 6, 2026, Regular Meeting- A motion was made by Matt Rivers, seconded by Katelynn King and approved unanimously to accept minutes.

3.0 Public Comment - None

4.0 Financial Report- Rod Parlee stated that the Fiscal year ends on June 30, 2026. Financial updates show a healthy Activity Fund balance. Brenda Cataldo has been reimbursed for purchase of Earth Day t-shirts. A motion was made by Matt Rivers and seconded by Katelynn King and approved unanimously, to appropriate \$25 from the Conservation Activity Fund for Munson's chocolates for the BCC Recycling Challenge at Kids to Parks Day event.

4.1 Tidbit Stream Temp. Monitors & Batteries- Rod Parlee discussed considering the purchase of two Hobo Tidbits. Rod will email Pat Young to inquire about SRWP's experience with tidbits versus hobo devices for stream temperature monitoring. Peter Van Dine will be contacted to talk about the current inventory of hobo devices and get his opinion on purchasing additional tidbits before next month's meeting.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Trails Day on Nathan Hale Greenway- Hike will be held on June 6, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., with a rain date of June 7, 2026. This hike is 3 miles roundtrip starting at Stony Road and heading west to the Vernal Pool. The trail is now officially blazed and marked, replacing the previous pink ribbons. Also discussed was the history of these Trails Day nature hikes, which have been happening for about 20 years across different locations in Bolton.

5.2 Choose Date for RBV @ Herrick Park Lodge- After reviewing 3 possible dates for the RBV, October 3, 2026, was unanimously chosen for the event. The town will be notified of this change. The event will from 10-4PM beginning at Herrick Park Lodge where a PowerPoint presentation will be conducted and potentially, will have updates from a DEEP volunteer. Also discussed, was the importance of sterilizing boots and cleaning equipment between sites to prevent contamination, referencing previous guidance about bacteria transfer.

5.3 Outreach Efforts & Earth Day Results- Outreach efforts on the effectiveness of different marketing strategies, including Facebook posts and bulletin board announcements, potentially automating email notifications and creating a separate email system for event notifications. Specific technical details and implementation were left for further discussion at the next meeting. A poster was made by Katelynn King for the Earth Day event.

5.4 Kids to Parks Day- with Carter Cochardo (Rec. Dir.) – Event will be held on Sunday May 17, rain or shine and will feature two activities: a morning hike at Freja Park (1.2 miles, departing at 10:00 AM) by way of the Kemp to Shinipsit Trail and an afternoon field day at Indian Notch Park starting at 2 PM. The Conservation Commission will be tabling at the field, offering recycling information and the “recycling challenge”. In the event of rain, this would take place in the pavilion.

5.5 Compost Bins & Rain Barrels – Delivery will be on Sunday, June 14 at 8:30 A.M, Rain or Shine at the Herrick Park, parking lot. Pick-up of the units will be at Herrick parking lot from 10:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M. Rain barrels are \$79.95/each and Compost bins are \$69.95/each, plus tax. The Earth Machine Composter currently on display at Bentley Memorial Library needs to be removed by May 26th.

5.6 Botany Survey of the Bolton Notch/Valley Falls Watershed- The botany survey MOU was discussed, with work planned for the 2026 growing season to update the 1993 vascular plant study, focusing on the Bolton Notch Valley Falls watershed and including areas like the old growth forest network property and the Railroad Brook corridor.

At 8:17 P.M. meeting was interrupted by a system malfunction. Meeting resumed at 8:25 P.M.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Results of Composting/Vernal Pool Connection Workshop @ Bentley Memorial Library-

A well-attended and informative program was held by the commission, with approximately 20 people attending. Alan Bicknell suggested the possibility of starting a pilot composting program. Following the presentation was a walk to the vernal pool across from the library. It was a chilly evening for the 15 people that attended. Ed Pawlak was the guest speaker, who showed egg masses that were found in the vernal pool.

6.2 Herrick Park Soccer Field & Bates Memorial- On April 23, Rod Parlee met with the Administrative Officer and Town Engineer at Town Hall. The preformed scout hole will be moved down and away from the Bates Memorial site. Rod also pointed out an area on the west side of the stone wall that is filled with extensive yellow trout lilies. The BCC sent a similar letter of concern that was sent to the IWC to the P&Z, but it was not reviewed, circulated or read by P&Z Commission at the meeting due to a referral status. Construction of the soccer field is expected to begin Summer of 2026.

6.3 Interchange of Rt 6/44 & I-384- On April 20, a CRCOG preliminary plan was approved by the BoS and is now under review with DOT. Rod Parlee suggested including a roundabout at the Notch as part of the final plan.

6.4 Data Collection & Transfer Working Group- Graphs, Tidbits & Batteries- Chris Vandenburg presented graph charts of temperature data collected from the tidbits.

6.5 The 25th Annual Photo Contest Deadline on May 5- It was decided to extend the photo contest deadline to May 15th at midnight and set May 18th as the date for on-line voting on the submissions. Brenda Cataldo will put together the photos on her website for viewing/judging purposes. Also

discussed was concern of photo resolution requirements and it was agreed to reach out to local schools, including the high school photography class, to encourage more submissions. Katelynn King will reach out to Bolton High School and create a flyer. A motion was made by Katelynn King and seconded by Brenda Cataldo and approved unanimously to extend the deadline of the 25th Annual Photo Contest to May 15, 2026.

6.6 BSA Troup 73 Projects at Freja Park with Nathan Slater and Lorelei Charney- The BCC will assist Nathan Slater with the bridge project proposal. The bridge project will involve rebuilding a bridge approximately 50-100 feet upstream, requiring wetlands commission approval. The BCC will assist Lorelei Charney in reaching out to one of the owners of the right-of-way (Old Manchester Drive-In property-Bolton Senior Living Community LLC) for permission to remove invasive species. Identified were autumn olive as the primary target along with Japanese Barberry, European Bittersweet, and Garlic mustard, with plans for four phases of removal based on optimal removal timing for each species.

7.0 Reports: Bike Walk Bolton (CSP), FBL, BLWCA, SRWP & CACIWC- Updates on Bike Walk Bolton's Complete Streets display at Bentley Memorial Library, Friends of Bolton Lakes Spring forum on May 20th at Newhoca Lodge, and the Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance's new parcel evaluation matrix. The status of the Riparian Buffers bill was discussed and appears unlikely to pass due to changes in the proposed language.

8.0 Correspondence- Rod Parlee recommended that members watch the “Proforestation” movie. https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=A63mqKtM3_Y

9.0 Adjournment- A motion was made to adjourn by Brenda Cataldo and seconded by Alan Bicknell and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 P.M. Next meeting will be held June 1, 2026, via Zoom only.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda V. Cataldo

Brenda V. Cataldo, BCC Member



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