

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 1, 2016

7:00pm

TOWN HALL

Members present: Rodney Parlee (Chairman), Peter Wilkens (Vice Chairman), Brenda Cataldo, Sarah Davies

Public Guest: Ben VanDine

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1.2 Approval of Agenda- A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Peter Wilkens to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

1.3 Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on June 6, 2016- A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Brenda Cataldo to approve the minutes as submitted from the June 6, 2016 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Public Comment- Ben VanDine expressed concerns regarding the approval of the natural gas line extension and its impact on Bolton.

3.0 Correspondence- The Chairman noted the following correspondence:

- 7/27/16 “Bolton Selectmen Approve Natural Gas Line Despite Concerns About Fracking” Journal Inquirer p.11
- 6/11/16 “Plenty of ‘Species’ at BioBlitz” Republican-American p.7C
- 6/16/16 “Walks, Talks at Robinson Park Day this Month” Agawam p.15
- 7/13/15 Letter from Elizabeth Waters: Officer Election
- 7/23/16 E-mail from Friends of Bolton Lakes: Aquatic Plant Survey
- CT Invasive Water Plant Guide added to Commission Google Drive
- 7/26/16 Letter from CT Forest & Park Association: Trails Day 2016 Results
- 7/31/16 E-mail from Bolton Land Trust: 15th Anniversary Celebration Invitation
- Town of Bolton Annual Report FY 2014-15 p.6 & 31
- Bolton Land Trust: Membership Request
- Land Conservation Coalition: Membership Request
- Nature Conservancy 2017 Calendar

4.0 Financial Report- Rod Parlee submitted \$20 from calendar sales.

4.1 FY 2016-17 Budget- No current report.

4.2 RBV Equipment- Tabled until line item 6.5.

4.3 Benmeadows.com- The commission will research trail maintenance plans prior to purchasing supplies.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Photo Contest Winners – Prizes Distribution/2017 Calendar- All prizes have been distributed and remaining plants were put in Freja Park. Brenda Cataldo is researching design and printing options for 2017. The commission agreed that the 2017 insert should educate residents on Bolton’s waste disposal sites (transfer station, bulk waste removal, textile recycling, composting, etc.)

5.2 Earth Machine Composter Sales- 6/7 composters remain for sale.

5.3 BLWCA Meeting- Rod Parlee reported that the group has not met recently.

5.4 New T-Shirt Design- T-shirts will be used for prizes, fundraising and to promote activity in community spaces. Brenda Cataldo presented a design which was approved by the group.

A motion was made by Sarah Davies, seconded by Peter Wilkens and passed unanimously to appropriate \$335.16 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase 8L, 8XL, 6M and 6S shirts from Zazzle by Friday 8/5/16.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Election of Officers- The commission agreed to elect a treasurer in addition to chairman and vice chairman.

A motion was made by Rod Parlee, seconded by Brenda Cataldo, to nominate Peter Wilkens as vice chairman. The motion passed with one abstention from Peter Wilkens. A motion was made by Sarah Davies, seconded by Brenda Cataldo, to close the nomination for vice chairman. The motion passed with one abstention from Peter Wilkens. A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Sarah Davies, to elect Peter Wilkens as vice chairman. The motion passed with one abstention from Peter Wilkens.

A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Rod Parlee, to nominate Peter Wilkens as treasurer. The motion passed with one abstention from Peter Wilkens. A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Rod Parlee, to close the nomination for treasurer. The motion passed with one abstention from Peter Wilkens. A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Rod Parlee, to elect Peter Wilkens as treasurer. The motion passed with one abstention from Peter Wilkens.

A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Sarah Davies, to nominate Rod Parlee as chairman. The motion passed with one abstention from Rod Parlee. A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Brenda Cataldo, to close the nomination for chairman. The motion passed with one abstention from Rod Parlee. A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Brenda Cataldo, to elect Rod Parlee as chairman. The motion passed with one abstention from Rod Parlee.

6.2 Action Items- Peter Wilkens noted the importance of filling current commission vacancies to ensure maximum effectiveness in conservation efforts. It was reiterated that the group will focus on outreach to individuals and partnership with groups. The group agreed to review responsibilities, create mission statements and set goals (both long and short term) at the next meeting. Suggested discussion topics included increased membership, partnership plans, designated member tasks and commission stances.

6.3 Herrick & Freja Park Trail Blazing- The commission will research trail maintenance plans for the blazed trail in Herrick Park. Sarah Davies reported seeing new blazing in Freja Park. The group agreed to continue to update and maintain the 3 park kiosks.

It was suggested that the Foliage Hike in October held at the Heritage Farm with Ray Hardy.

6.4 Heritage Farm Day- The commission is awaiting information regarding the event.

6.5 RBV on October 23rd- Sarah Davies presented a proposal for the event, focusing on outreach and partnership with students of Bolton schools. The commission agreed to invite BHS Envirothon team and CT DEEP coordinator to training workshop prior to the event. The proposal is shared via google drive with all members for reference and editing. The group discussed ordering materials such as waders, kick nets and tarps or floor liners.

A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Brenda Cataldo and passed unanimously to approve the proposal as submitted and proceed with outreach.

A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Brenda Cataldo and passed unanimously to appropriate up to \$250 from the Conservation Activity Fund for the purchase of an additional kick net.

6.6 Outreach- The commission agreed to focus on outreach and building membership to promote conservation activity in the community.

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoices- A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Brenda Cataldo and passed unanimously to approve the Clerk's Invoice as submitted for the August 1, 2016 regular meeting.

8.0 Adjournment- A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Brenda Cataldo and passed unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa M. Wilkens
Board Clerk

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 1, 2016 at Town Hall.

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