

# **BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

## **Minutes**

*Regular Meeting*

Monday, March 6, 2017.

TOWN HALL

**Members present: Rodney Parlee, Brenda Cataldo, Peter Van Dine**

**Guest: Richard Treat (Bolton Land Trust)**

### **1.0 Preliminaries**

**1.1 Call Meeting to Order-** The Chairman Rod Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**1.2 Approval of Agenda-** A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Peter Van Dine to approve the agenda with the following addition: **“5.2 Bolton Land Trust Report by BLT Liaison, Richard Treat”** The motion passed unanimously.

**1.3 Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on February 6, 2017-** A motion was made by Peter Van Dine and seconded by Brenda Cataldo to approve the minutes with the following addition in Item **6.1 Petrin Property – 50 acre Parcel:** Ann Letendre, “a member of the Vernon Town Council”. The motion passed unanimously.

**2.0 Public Comment-** Richard Treat, Liaison for the Bolton Land Trust, invited the Commission to this year’s events including the Annual Walk of Thanksgiving which is scheduled for the Saturday after Thanksgiving and the Spring Bird Walk on April 22 at Gay City State Park.

**3.0 Correspondence-** Rod Parlee noted the following correspondence:

- North Central Conservation District Plant & Seedling Sale Flyer
- Bolton Land Trust upcoming events notice.

### **4.0 Financial Report-**

**4.1 Accounts Balance-** The Treasurer Peter Van Dine updated the budget and stated that the quarterly reports will give a more complete balance of BCC accounts.

**4.2 Calendar Revenue Collection-** Brenda Cataldo submitted a total of \$30.00 cash in calendar sales collected from Cropley’s Garden Center.

**4.3 Take A Hike T-Shirts with New BCC Logo-** Peter Van Dine talked about price quotes for possibly going through Staples for ordering T-Shirts. Richard Treat mentioned that the BLT also manages a public trail at the “Blackledge Marsh”.

A motion was made by Peter Van Dine, seconded by Brenda Cataldo, to approve, but not to exceed \$350 for the cost of printing shirts though Staples from the Conservation Activity Fund, pending approval by the Bolton Board of Selectman. The motion passed unanimously.

Brenda Cataldo showed different Logo Designs for possible use for the Bolton Conservation Seal. A motion was made by Peter Van Dine to submit Logo design A-1 to Bolton’s Administrative Officer for final approval, seconded by Rod Parlee. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.4 Earth Machine Composter Sales**

Brenda Cataldo reported that Cropley's Garden Center will be advertising the Earth Machine Composters in their next flyer. No additional sales reported.

#### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

##### **5.1 Natural Resource Inventory-Parcel Evaluation/Matrix Fundamentals**

Rod Parlee had spoken with Selectwoman Gwen Marion and P&Z Chair Eric Lunta about the importance of conducting a Property Evaluation on certain parcels in Bolton and what if any affect it would have on the current PofCD. The most recent Open Space Map from Gwen Marion of the BLT (dated 2012) was shared. The Commission agreed that many key parcels have not yet been evaluated and should be completed. An overlay map consisting of all Open Space properties and Conservation Easements over an updated Parcel Evaluation map were suggested. Peter Van Dine recommended a change to the Open Space Property Evaluation #1 Category – adding “Lakes and Ponds”. It was also decided that Category #11 and #12 be removed from the Matrix and be used as a separate evaluation. The Commission agreed by consensus.

The Vernon Open Space Task Force has appealed to Bolton Land Trust, Manchester Land Conservation Trust and Northern CT Land Trust to start a permanent preservation effort regarding the Petrin property. Richard Treat felt it might be better for the Town of Vernon to lead the effort, since most the Petrin property is in the Town of Vernon (67 in Vernon, 50 in Bolton).

**5.2 Bolton Land Trust Report- by Richard Treat, BLT Liaison** - Rod Parlee shared a topography, wetlands and parcel map of the Former Rt. 6 properties between Rt. 44 and Rt. 6. Richard Treat mentioned that a boundary delineation is relevant if a trail is to go through so many properties, along with trail entrance and parking locations. Rod Parlee suggested Trail development be organized to manage the property properly. Peter Van Dine mentioned that planning should be conducted along with the Coventry Conservation Commission and/or the Planning Commission.

#### **6.0 New Business**

##### **6.1 Finalize Vernal Pools Day (3/25), Earth Day (4/22) & Trails Day (6/3)**

CAWS (CT Association of Wetland Scientists) has picked 5 vernal pools to study in CT and one is in Bolton. Rod Parlee would like to invite Professional Wetlands Scientist Ed Pawlak and Ross Lally of the Bolton IWC to lead a hike on Vernal Pools Day possibly on the Loomis Rd property, Herrick Park or Bolton Notch State Park. A motion was made by Peter Van Dine, seconded by Brenda Cataldo, for Rod Parlee to choose the site for Vernal Pools Day to be held on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Peter Van Dine, to move forward with the Earth Day Hike and possible Fairy House Building Contest, to be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo and seconded by Peter Van Dine, to have a Trails Day event as part of National Trails Day with guests, nationally known arborist Matt Largess and Ernie Harris of Hartford Audubon for a Chestnut Tree & Bird Hike in Herrick Park, on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00~10:00 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Rod Parlee noted that Sylvia Ounpuu and Barbara Amodio of Bike/Walk Bolton have organized a Hop River Ride-Rolling Museum from Bolton to Andover, to be held June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00~4:00 p.m. The Commission will participate and is considering becoming a sponsor for this Trails Day event.

## **6.2 NCCD Plant & Seedling Sale**

A motion was made by Peter Van Dine, seconded by Brenda Cataldo to appropriate up to \$400.00 to purchase plants and trees for the 2016 Photo Contest Prizes, from the North Central Conservation District Seedling Sale, out of the Conservation Activity Fund, pending approval from Bolton's Administrative Officer. Motion passed unanimously.

## **6.3 Photo Contest Winning Prizes**

2016 Photo Contest Prizes for 4 entry categories will consist of an Earth Machine Composter, a Flowering Dogwood Tree, Red Buckeye Tree, Pawpaw Tree, Bush-Honeysuckle plants, Blueberry bushes, Quart-size Pollinators, Bird & Bee Gardens in a box, as well as T-shirts.

## **6.4 Results of Greenway Extension Meeting**

Peter Van Dine reported that connecting Quarry Road to Indian Notch Park will not be touched until the Rails to Trails from the Notch tunnel to Quarry Road is figured out. Boundary studies were conducted and paid for by the Town of Bolton thanks to a grant.

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

Peter Van Dine made a motion to approve the clerk's invoice and was seconded by Rod Parlee. Motion passed unanimously.

## **8.0 Adjournment**

A motion was made by Peter Van Dine, seconded by Brenda Cataldo to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Brenda Cataldo  
Conservation Commission Member

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

**The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, April 3, 2017 at Town Hall.**

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