

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2017

7:00pm

TOWN HALL

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

Public Guests: Tom Ouellette (Vernon Open Space Task Force), Gretchen Wiedie (Bolton Land Trust)

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1.2 Approval of Agenda- A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Peter Van Dine to approve the agenda, amending the day to Monday. The motion passed unanimously.

1.3 Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on January 5, 2017- A motion was made by Peter Van Dine, seconded by Peter Wilkens to approve the minutes with the following amendments:

Removal of titles “(Chairman)” and “(Co-Chair)” from commission member attendance. Addition of the title “(Administrative Officer)” to public guest Joyce Stille. Replacement of the phrase “the group” to “the Commission” throughout the document. Under line item 4.4 replace the word “make” to “appoint.” Under line item 5.1 add “Neither design was considered acceptable in current form.” Under line item 5.3 add “There are five machines remaining for sale.” Under line item 5.4 add “No recycling container was present at this past Family Day event.” Under line item 6.7 note “A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Peter Van Dine to have Ray Hardy lead a Wildlife walk for Trails Day 1/14/17 at 1pm in Freja Park. The motion passed unanimously.”

The motion passed with one abstention from Brenda Cataldo.

2.0 Public Comment- None.

*The Commission proceeded to line item 6.1

6.1 Petrin Property – 50-acre Parcel- A member of the Vernon Town Council proposed to Rod Parlee that the Commission consider supporting the permanent preservation of the 117-acre Petrin property on Box Mountain. The parcel contains 50-acres in Bolton and 67 in Vernon. Rod Parlee shared maps of the 50 acre space in Bolton, a map of Bolton’s protected space with core areas, and a new CT DEEP map. The parcel connects with the MLCT Risely Reservoir property, Bolton Notch State Park, Valley Falls, Tulip Tree Trail and Bolton Lake Water Access. The Commission discussed connecting Land Trust land to Open Space land and closing greenway gaps. The Commission reviewed the valuation of the Petrin property, parcel #69, on Bolton’s protected space map and the scores for the parcel on the Open Space Property Evaluation Matrix.

Tom Ouellette shared Vernon Open Space Plan map. He reported that Ann Letendre is seeking support from groups to apply for a grant. The property needs to be appraised and surveyed. He requested a map similar to the Vernon Open Space Plan map be shared from Bolton in order to create a single map from the two towns showing combined resources. Finally, he noted the importance of determining which group, agency or organization would be willing and able to take ownership of the parcel in the future and be listed as such on the grant application.

The commission agreed to support efforts to preserve the property and submit maps of pertinent acreage.

3.0 Correspondence- Rod Parlee noted the following correspondence:

- Nov./Dec. 2016 CT Wildlife Magazine
- Winter 2017 Arc User Magazine & Arc News
- 2017 Award Materials from Aquarion Water Company
- 1/29/17 E-mail from Rod Parlee: Bolton Land Trust Liaison, Bolton Land Trust photo of the month sharing system, permanent preservation of 117 acre Petrin property, 2001 parcel evaluation update, article in the Rails to Trails Conservancy online publication featuring the Hop River State Park Trail, CT DEEP 1st Annual Open Space Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program Photo Contest.

4.0 Financial Report

A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Peter Wilkens and passed unanimously to use \$75 professional business funds to register Rod Parlee by March 1st for the CT Land Conservation Conference on March 18th 2017, pending Board of Selectman approval.

4.1 Accounts Balance- Peter Van Dine submitted preliminary treasurer's report. The Commission reviewed account balances and agreed this report should also account for non cash assets and their locations.

4.2 Calendar Sale Locations & Revenue Collection- A total of \$210 calendar sale funds were submitted for deposit into the Conservation Activity Fund: Rod Parlee submitted \$50 cash from Town Hall calendar sales and a \$10 check from personal calendar sales. Peter Van Dine submitted a \$70 check from personal calendar sales. Brenda Cataldo submitted \$80 cash from England Hardware calendar sales. No calendars were sold at Bolton Motors. Calendars remain with Rod Parlee, Brenda Cataldo, Cropley's and at Town Hall.

A motion was made by Peter Wilkens, seconded by Peter Van Dine and passed unanimously to lower the price of remaining calendars to \$5.

4.3 "Take A Hike" T-Shirts for Fund Raising- Peter Van Dine reported that Zazzle does not accept purchase orders. Bolton Land Trust likes the idea of promoting parks and open space. Rod Parlee shared 2017 flier from www.earthdayshirts.com.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 New BCC Logo Design- The Commission reviewed three new designs presented by Brenda Cataldo. Feedback included editing the overall shape of the design and ensuring that logos will translate well to black and white.

5.2 Results of Winter Trails Day Hike- The hike went well and was informative. Ray Hardy will host an information session on February 23rd at 6 p.m. at Bentley Memorial Library titled "Stories in the Snow: Backyard Wildlife Tracking."

5.3 Earth Machine Composter Sales- No additional sales reported. Brenda Cataldo will check in with Cropley's.

5.4 Bolton Land Trust Liaison – Details of Position- Bolton Land Trust has agreed to send rotating representatives to Conservation Commission meetings to foster partnership and collaboration. The Land Trust meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Bolton High School.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Petrin Property – 50-acre Parcel- See * between line items 2.0 and 3.0

6.2 Natural Resource Inventory – Parcel Evaluation and Matrix Fundamentals- The Commission reviewed the categories of the Open Space Property Evaluation matrix and discussed next steps for updating the 2001 parcel evaluation map. The Commission agreed to gather further information on category rankings and protocols used for the 2001 mapping. The Commission discussed focusing on updating the map one parcel at a time. The Commission noted the Petrin property, currently preserved property, drive-in property and recently acquired CT DOT parcels as priorities.

It was noted that Bolton Land Trust would be asked to update their parcel ownership. It was noted that Land Trust and Conservation Commission easements as well as 490 Farm and Forest Open Space should be marked.

6.3 Rt. 6 Properties Trail Potential - Maps- Rod Parlee shared 1/19/17 E-mail to the Towns of Bolton and Coventry from CT Recreational Trails & Greenway Program: Awarding grant for FY 2016-17 for Nathan Hale Greenway. Rod Parlee and Peter Van Dine shared parcel boundary and topographic maps of Bolton's acquired parcels.

6.4 Trails Day on June 3 and 4th – March 15th Submission Deadline- The Commission discussed offering an Early Morning Bird Walk with Matt Largess and Ernie Harris. The Commission is collaborating with other groups to ensure events are not conflicting. The Commission is coordinating an a.m. gathering, Bike Walk Bolton will host a noon time event and Vernon Conservation Commission is having an evening program.

6.5 BLWCA Meeting Report- Rod Parlee shared and reported on the minutes from the 2/2/17 meeting. The Commission reviewed a map of the Atlantic White Cedar Stand in Upper Bolton Lake.

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoices- A motion was made by Peter Van Dine, seconded by Peter Wilkens and passed unanimously to approve the Clerk's Invoice as submitted for the February 6, 2017 regular meeting.

8.0 Adjournment- A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Peter Wilkens and passed unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:27 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 Monday, March 6, 2017 at Town Hall.

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