

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 1, 2017

TOWN HALL

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

Guest: Ray Hardy

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order- The Chairman, Rod Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1.2 Approval of Agenda- A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Peter Van Dine to approve the agenda.

1.3 Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on April 3, 2017- A motion was made by Peter Van Dine and seconded by Brenda Cataldo to approve the minutes with the addition of “Peter Wilkens volunteered to draft a letter” to line item 6.6 Oil Spill Response in Bolton. The motion passed with unanimously.

2.0 Public Comment- Ray Hardy reported on kestrel nesting boxes. Kestrels are showing interest in the boxes, but starlings have eggs in one of them.

3.0 Correspondence- Rod Parlee noted the following correspondence:

- Arc News Spring 2017
- Aquarion Letter: Nominations for Environmental Champion Awards
- Current edited draft of Conservation Commission Report
- BLWCA Meeting Agenda & Minutes April 12, 2017

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 Accounts Balance- The Treasurer, Peter Van Dine shared an updated financial report.

A motion was made by Brenda Cataldo, seconded by Peter Van Dine and passed unanimously to allocate up to \$25 from the office account to purchase a storage bin for Commission supplies, pending approval from the Board of Selectmen.

4.2 Earth Machine Composter Sales- Brenda Cataldo agreed to check with Cropley’s regarding sales and promotions. The Commission discussed Changes of Thyme as possible sale site.

4.3 “Ask Me About” T-shirts- Peter Van Dine shared an estimate of \$180 from customink.com for 6 shirts. The Commission agreed to look into alternative production sites.

A motion was made by Peter Van Dine, seconded by Brenda Cataldo and passed unanimously to increase the appropriation from last month up to \$150 from the Conservation Activity Fund for the purchase of outreach t-shirts, pending approval from the Board of Selectmen.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Notch Pond- The Commission shared study materials and Commission letters from prior years regarding Notch Pond with Milton Hathaway. The Commission agreed to review information Milton shared and provide feedback. Peter Van Dine noted that surrounding states have official low impact development manuals whereas Connecticut has 2002 Guidelines for Stormwater Control. The Commission agreed to continue discussion next month.

5.2 Trees Posted for Cutting at BCS Entrance- Public hearing was held Wednesday April 26, 2017 at 11am. Results are unknown to the Commission. The Commission agreed to continue discussion next month.

5.3 Natural Resource Inventory

a) Create List of Matrix Sources- The Commission is awaiting updated maps.

b) Rt 6 Properties Parcel Evaluation- Ray Hardy noted that this area includes Mohegan land claim territory. He reported on the historic and archeological value of the parcel. It includes a high elevation point containing buried and visible stone features which are likely Native American. The hill side seems to align with sunrise during the winter solstice when viewed from Squaw's Cave. Ray Hardy explained that the title "Squaw's Cave" is accepted by Mohegan's as "squaw" is a native word for woman.

c) Site Walk- Ray Hardy agreed to lead a site walk, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday June 14. The Commission agreed to table evaluation until after the site walk.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Stream Temperature Monitoring- Peter Van Dine filed a request form online and is awaiting response from DEEP. The Commission discussed possible survey sites including Bolton Pond Brook and Railroad Brook.

6.2 Earth Day (4/22) Results - Collage- Rod Parlee shared a photo collage from the event. Participants built fairy houses and planted a hemlock tree in Freja Park. The Commission agreed to repeat this event next year with consideration for prize purchases.

6.3 Trails Day Events (6/3) Bates Trail Work Party- Trails Day events in Bolton include 8-10am Nature Walk in Herrick Park with Ernie Harris and Matt Largess and 1-4pm Hop River Ride- Rolling Museum from Bolton to Andover for bicyclists. Peter Van Dine and Rod Parlee agreed to create a task list for Bates Trail. The Commission agreed to appeal for volunteers to maintain trails.

6.4 Photo Contest Deadline (5/15) Set Special Meeting Date- The Commission reviewed a contest prize list and set a special meeting date for Wednesday May 17th at 7 pm at Town Hall for photo contest judging. Brenda Cataldo agreed to reach out to previous participants and individuals who signed up on event sign in sheets.

6.5 Family Day Tabling (5/29) – Plant & Tee Shirts Sales- The Commission priced items for sale at Family Day. Bushes will be \$15, quart plants \$5, plugs \$3 or 4 for \$10 and T-shirts \$15.

6.6 Outreach- The Commission is seeking 1 member and 1 alternate. The Commission discussed strategies for outreach. It was noted that person to person contact has been most effective.

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice- Brenda Cataldo made a motion to approve the clerk's invoice and was seconded by Peter Van Dine. The motion passed unanimously.

8.0 Adjournment- A motion was made by Peter Van Dine, seconded by Brenda Cataldo to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa M. Wilkens
Conservation Commission 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, June 5, 2017 at Town Hall.

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