

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Special Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
TOWN HALL

Members Present: Chairman Rodney Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine
Members Absent: Brenda Cataldo

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1.2 Minutes Approval of May 6, 2019 Regular Meeting and May 16, 2019 Special Meeting

A. Bicknell moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from May 6, 2019, as presented. P. Van Dine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

P. Van Dine moved to approve the Special Meeting minutes from May 16, 2019 as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Correspondence

3.1 Letter to CT DEEP Director of Forestry Christopher Martin

A draft of a letter from R. Parlee to Christopher Martin regarding the timber harvest on Box Mountain was distributed for review by the commission members. Suggestions were made to reword the first bullet point and to attach the minutes of the Inlands Wetland Commission and add appendixes. P. Van Dine moved to approve the letter with amendments. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Correspondence:

Letter from Connecticut River Conservancy regarding a membership request-the BCC has not been a member in the past

ARC User magazine Spring 2019

Trails Day Sign in Sheet (To be sent to CFPA)

Air Line Trail Brochure

Annual membership request from the Bolton Land Trust. P. Van Dine moved to table paying the membership fee until the next fiscal year. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Letter from the BOS appointing J. Laughman as an alternate to the BCC with a term ending in 2022.

Letter from A. Bicknell to Brian Jones (State Archaeologist) of the State Office of Archeology dated June 20, 2019, thanking him for his time in looking at Squaws Cave.

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 ARC View GIS Online \$100

R. Parlee will look into filling out the application for the ARC View Software.

The financial report was presented. The total budget for FY2020 is \$50.00 greater than FY2019.

Two plants were unsold on Family Day-a Rosebay Rhododendron and a Highbush Blueberry. A suitable location will be found for planting.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Open Space Mapping/GIS Workstation/Freja Park Boundaries

The Open Space Acquisition Commission has not been active for years. They would be responsible for monitoring open space in town. The State's goal is to preserve 21% of land as open space by 2023. R. Parlee presented a map that he received from the Manchester Land Trust showing 19.3 acres that may be a priority of preservation in the Southern part of Bolton. Based on the OSPAC parcel evaluation matrix, this would be an excellent open space acquisition for Bolton.

R. Parlee and P. Van Dine will walk the Freja Park boundaries this summer.

5.2 Photo Contest & Family Day Results

Winners and Prizes:

Beauty of Nature & Wildlife

1st Place-Sweet Magnolia (Moonglow) Tree
"Chicken of the Woods" by Gwen Marrion

2nd Place-Rosebay Rhododendron Shrub
"Reflections in Notch Pond" by David Ostafin

3rd Place-Highbush Blueberry Plant
"One of Nature's Treasures"-Indian Pipes by Ruth Hoffman

Beauty of Open Space

1st Place-Drone Aerial Photo of your Property or House
"Full Moon over Heritage Farm" by Cliff Manzone

2nd Place-Rosebay Rhododendron Shrub
"Treat Tree Farm" by Caitlyn O'Neil

3rd Place-Highbush Blueberry Bush
“Harbinger of Spring” by Susan Lawler

Examples of Green Living & Farming

1st Place-Earth Machine Composter
“Pick Your Own” by Giovanni Querido

2nd Place-Rosebay Rhododendron Shrub
“Reducing our Footprint-Solar Power for 100% Electric Car” by Sylvia Ounpuu

3rd Place- Highbush Blueberry Bush
“Dreaming of Living in a Fairy House” by Russ Iger

People in the Environment

1st Place-White Fringe Tree
“Bolton Land Trust Yoga at Sunset at the Treat Farm” by Scott Livingston

2nd Place-Rosebay Rhododendron Shrub
“Bike Walk Bolton cleans up Flag Rock. Spelling BWB w-2!!” by Barbara Amodio

3rd Place-Highbush Blueberry Bush
“Fun in the Snow” by Steven Kornfeld

The May 15th deadline for the photo contest results in a very quick turnaround time for voting, notifying the winners and producing the poster of winners. The deadline for 2020 entries will be revisited.

Photo quality is also a concern due to size restrictions. Discussion will continue when B. Cataldo is present.

An Earth Machine Composter Demo and enough parts to make another Earth Machine (minus the door) are located downstairs at Town Hall.

Family Day was a success. The recycling challenge was well received.

5.3 2020 Calendar Timeline for Publication

In July, B. Cataldo will pick twelve photos for the 2020 calendar. Dates (Commission meetings, full moons, etc.) will be reviewed in August.

5.4 Trails Day Results

27 people attended the Trails Day hike. Many natural features were noted and appreciated. There was a scientific focus to the walk which added to the interest. J. Laughman noted that with so many experts it was difficult to hear what everybody had to say. One or two experts may be more productive and provide a more focused experience.

5.5 Kids to Park Day Results

R. Parlee and A. Bicknell led a walk at Herrick Park with the Rec. Director and two young children with their mother.

5.6 Brochures & Kiosk Updates

R. Parlee presented a copy of the Freja Park brochure. Herrick Park and Vernal Pools brochures remain to be produced.

5.7 Freja/Herrick/BNSP Trail Monitor Report

A. Bicknell presented his report. The Herrick Park blazes need to be redone and the trail needs to be rerouted. R. Parlee will contact S. Pierog regarding a beautification project at Freja Park. The new two sheets of lexan were replaced on the Freja Park kiosks.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Board Representatives Meeting Report

A. Bicknell attended the meeting. The BCC was recognized as being the most active commission in town. The 300th anniversary celebration was mentioned and all commissions are invited to be involved in the planning. The 300th anniversary could be the focus of the 2020 BCC photo contest.

6.2 Sustainable CT

The Mission Statement was read: "To provide municipalities with a menu of coordinated, voluntary actions, to continually become more sustainable; to provide resources and tools to assist municipalities in implementing sustainability actions and advancing their programs for the benefit of all residents; and to certify and recognize municipalities for their ongoing sustainability achievements." Discussion ensued as to what this really means and how Bolton will be participating. More information is expected.

6.3 Recycling Challenge in Bolton

This was the highlight of Family Day. There were many questions about what is and is not suitable for recycling. J. Laughman contacted Sherill Baldwin of CTDEEP to see if recycling flyers were available for distribution. Sherill suggested that someone in Bolton become a WRAP champion to become the expert on plastic film recycling. A 4-panel display is available to denote acceptable plastic film items. The Governor is setting up a task force to revisit recycling practices.

6.4 Meeting with State Archaeologist in BNSP

The State Archaeologist, Brian Jones thought the seepage well near Squaw's Cave was from the 18th century. He suggested contacting State Parks to have them put up signage. David Buckley is the State Parks person to contact regarding the well.

6.5 BCC Volunteer Monitoring Initiative and RBV Macroinvertebrate ID for Coordinators

P. Van Dine noted that there are seven stream monitors in use. The monitors are read every six months. P. Van Dine and A. Bicknell looked at four of the monitors. It was

noted that two monitors were not collecting data nor were they reading data because they were not launched. This has been corrected.

P. Van Dine is waiting to hear a date in July for the macroinvertebrate ID for Coordinators seminar.

6.5 FBL and BLWCA Report (Results of 6/5 mtg) – UCONN AWC GPR Presentation

P. Van Dine noted that six little monitors to test light intensity and temperature are attached to a line to a buoy in the deepest part of the lake during the week and are removed for the weekend.

The BLWCA meeting featured Eric Thomas of CTDEEP. An extra \$5.00 boat tax was levied this year for use in eradicating invasive plants. A formal request has been made to manage the Bolton Lakes as one entity rather than three different entities.

UCONN AWC GPR presentation will be available on the Bolton Lakes website when it is complete. This will include UCONN student Connor Mitchell's senior thesis and slide show.

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

A. Bicknell approved the clerk's invoice as presented. J. Laughman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 Adjournment

J. Laughman moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Brand

Leslie J. Brand

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

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