

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, July 6, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING utilizing ZOOM

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo (from 8:10 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.), Jean Laughman, Peter Van Dine and Alternate Matthew Rivers

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order-Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1.2 Minutes Review of June 1, 2020 Regular Meeting

Under **5.2 CLCC Conference Refund** amend the total refund amount to \$260.00 and amend the credit to the Activity Fund to \$30.00.

Under **7.2 Trail Monitoring and Work Parties** amend the Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose and Barberry mentioned in paragraph 2 to clarify that those species were found in Herrick Park. In that same paragraph further identify Barbara as Barbara Amodio of Bike Walk Bolton.

A. Bicknell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Correspondence:

Invitation from Arlene Fiano to the 9th annual farmers market and antique truck, tractor and farm equipment show on Sunday, August 30th from 9-1 hosted by Heritage Farm Commission. The BCC will plan to host a table at this event.

Email correspondence between R. Parlee and Alexa Loda, the Town of Bolton Sustainable CT Committee (SCT) intern concerning composting. She is working on a composting plan for Bolton as part of the SCT initiative. R. Parlee shared correspondence and information with the Commission on a wire composter available from Wayfair.

4.0 Chairman's Report:

R. Parlee sent the collage of photo contest winners that was prepared by B. Cataldo to Kathy McCavanagh to be posted on the Town website. Gary Silver is the new Media Director in Town.

5.0 Financial Report:

P. Van Dine emailed the report to all BCC members. There were no questions.

5.1 Onset Order Payment

Payment is complete.

5.2 FY Beginning and Ending Balance

Not yet reconciled with the Finance Department.

5.3 V-Stem Equipment Inventory

The BCC now owns 6 Hobos and 1 Tidbit Stream Temperature Logger. Two Hobos are deployed.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 Jumpstart BCC Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM Data Collection

On Friday morning at 9:00 a.m., R. Parlee, M. Rivers and P. Van Dine plan to kayak around Bolton Lake to determine how many lawns contact the water. Conservation appropriate landscaping could be suggested for homeowners.

Stream temperature monitoring needs to resume. Railroad Brook and Freja Park will be the first sites to be monitored. A. Bicknell, M. Rivers, R. Parlee and P. Van Dine plan to meet on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. at the Bolton Commuter Lot. R. Parlee will bring gloves and waders. Social distancing will be practiced and masks will be worn. P. Van Dine will contact the property owners on Mark Anthony Lane to let them know that the BCC will be there searching for a lost hobo with a metal detector. Data will be stored and shared with the CT DEEP.

Time permitting on Saturday, R. Parlee would like to launch the tidbit in Bolton Lake to see what kind of reception there is. How deep can it go and are there any restrictions as far as rocks and other impediments?

6.2 Library Exhibit for March-Material P/U Status

R. Parlee contacted the library to retrieve the material that was on display. Library staff will clear out the display case and will put the items outside the library for pickup.

6.3 Photo Contest Rules/Marketing Review

B. Cataldo, R. Parlee and M. Rivers have formed a subcommittee to go over the contest rules and photo categories. They will meet before the next BCC meeting.

R. Parlee received a request from Gary Silver, the new public relations coordinator asking for copies of the photographs from the winners of the photo contest along with their Email addresses. Per the rules of the contest, there is no need to ask contest winners for permission to use their photos although it is a nice courtesy to inform the contest winners that their photos may be used in a tourism brochure.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Trail Monitoring and Work parties

A. Bicknell, R. Parlee and M. Rivers worked Thursday on the Bates Trail at Herrick Park cutting back growth including a lot of mile-a-minute from the emergency access trail. There is also a significant amount of mile-a-minute deep in the forest. M. Rivers suggested rededicating the Bates Trail at Herrick Park for the Bolton 300th anniversary as it will be the 25th anniversary of

the Bates Trail. R. Parlee suggested celebrating this as part of the BCC Peak Foliage Hike on October 24, 2020. The BCC agreed.

J. Laughman noted that it would be helpful to do some marking on the trail along the edge of the field to the woods.

Irish Acres (a horse farm) had ribbons on a trail that they had constructed that connects to the Bates Trail. R. Parlee brought up the option of separating horses from hikers.

R. Parlee noted that Freja Park has been very clean as far as trash although the water bars need to be cleaned out.

In Herrick Park and Freja Park A. Bicknell would like to experiment with removing garlic mustard before it goes to seed and removing bittersweet before the berries have a chance to mature (August). J. Laughman suggested the method of cutting off bittersweet vines 2 feet off the ground and painting the base with Roundup. Within 3 years the root system will have absorbed enough Roundup to stop growth.

J. Laughman also noted that burning bush could be controlled in the same way. A. Bicknell noted that the Nathan Hale Trail has a lot of barberry that could also be stopped by cutting them back before seeds form.

J. Laughman said that Japanese Knotweed bears watching. A. Bicknell noted that there is almost an acre of it near the lodge at Herrick Park.

There was discussion about having an Eagle Scout put together an invasive plant inventory and organize a work party for removal. J. Laughman noted that there is rarely follow up or maintenance of these projects. Five years of control measures are necessary to reduce the spread of invasives.

7.2 Composting in Bolton

This was discussed under correspondence. J. Laughman suggests that the intern (Alexa Loda) not just think about outside composting but consider a counter top composting container so people don't have to go to their outside compost pile every day.

Alexa is working on a survey to see if people are interested in composting, weekly compost pickup and/or food waste reduction. Schools may be able to develop a plan to compost or reduce their waste.

7.3 SCT, FBL and BLWCA Report

The next SCT meeting is July 22, 2020. J. Laughman will attend the meeting in place of R. Parlee. Well water testing is still a discussion topic.

P. Van Dine reported on FBL. Lower and Middle Lakes are very clear and strongly layered. It is the strongest layering in 3 or 4 years. Curly leaf pond weed is a problem in Lower Bolton Lake. It has been spot treated this past week. The broad leaf pond weed (not an invasive) is continuing to grow but the curly is dying. There is fanwort in Middle Lake. Invasives are also a problem in the Lakes. Uniform lake management between the four separate towns is a continuing concern.

R. Parlee noted that there have been problems lately at the boat launch. The FBL is limited in what action they can take to resolve these issues. Rules are a suggestion but there is no enforcement. The easy accessibility from Route 44 is a contributing problem.

A. Bicknell was concerned about the large firework displays possibly disturbing the bald eagles on the lake. He was pleased to see a bald eagle the day after the fireworks.

The next BLWCA meeting will be held on Wednesday. Barbara Kelly was asked to join the meeting to provide information on clear cutting and removing invasives from the edge of the lakes. There will be a discussion on increasing upland review areas.

7.4 Election of Officers

P. Van Dine moved to nominate R. Parlee as Chairman. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Bicknell moved to elect R. Parlee as Chairman. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Parlee moved to nominate P. Van Dine as Vice Chairman. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Laughman moved to elect P. Van Dine as Vice Chairman. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Parlee moved to nominate P. Van Dine as Treasurer. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Bicknell moved to elect P. Van Dine as Treasurer. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the invoice as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9.0 Adjournment

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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.

