

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman (left the meeting at 9:17 p.m.) and Peter Van Dine

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

1.2 Minutes Review of October 5, 2020 Regular Meeting

Under 5.2 20. Amend J. Laughman's comment about the Senior Center as a possible venue to a possible venue for selling calendars.

B. Cataldo made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Correspondence:

R. Parlee shared the updated "Notes of Calendar Production Tasks". This will be the 10th anniversary of the calendar. P. Van Dine suggested that the BCC ask Able Coil to be a sponsor of the photo contest and contribute a proposed value of \$200.00 to purchase plants from the North Central Conservation District to be used for prizes.

Email from Sylvia Ounpuu noting the presence of horse waste on the Freja Park trail. Other people have mentioned this in the past. It could be a safety issue and/or tripping hazard especially with the leaves on the ground. Unfortunately, horses are allowed on the trail and when riding a horse, there is no way to know when this is happening.

Email from Jean Laughman recapping the virtual CIPWG conference that was held on October 7, 2020.

R. Parlee presented a laminated pamphlet titled "Butterflies of Southern New England" by Jeff Fengler.

Clifford Scorso requested more information from B. Cataldo and J. Laughman about trees that were blocking the stream. Mr. Scorso's reply to R. Parlee will be included in next month's correspondence.

4.0 Financial Report:

P. Van Dine emailed the Financial Report to the BCC members. B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the Financial Report as submitted. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

4.1 Approve Freja Park Brochures

P. Van Dine made a motion to approve the expenditure and purchase request of \$60.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to print brochures for Freja Park. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

4.2 Approve Calendar Printing

100 calendars will be printed. An estimate from the printer, Hedges and Hedges, is required to obtain a purchase order. P. Van Dine made a motion to request a purchase order to appropriate up to \$1,150.00 for the printing of the 2020-2021 BCC calendar and any inserts. These funds will come from the Conservation Activity Fund. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

5.0 Continuing Business

5.1 20th Annual Photo Contest and Donation Request Flyer

B. Cataldo shared the annual photo contest flyer for 2021 and the donation request flyer.

5.2 “Town for All Seasons” 2021 Calendar Approval

B. Cataldo shared the 2020-2021 calendar showing the photo collage, the Chairman’s letter and each month’s picture and date grid along with the insert and information about the photo contest. The date of the Bolton Lake Regatta will be corrected from August 29, 2021 to May 23, 2021.

The wording of the BCC statement under Bolton “A Town For All Seasons” on the last page of the calendar will be amended grammatically.

5.3 Calendar Ads

B. Cataldo shared the page of calendar ads. B. Cataldo called all advertisers to confirm their participation. Each ad costs \$100.00. Checks and participation forms will be mailed to P. Van Dine, Treasurer, Conservation Commission, 81 Vernon Road, Bolton, CT 06043. He will bundle several checks at a time and send them to the Town with a deposit ticket for the Conservation Activity Fund. P. Van Dine asked that the Email address for the Friends of Bolton Lake be corrected to FBL@ friendsofBoltonlakes.org.

5.4 October RBV Results

The rating system for species found during the RBV was as follows:

- Most wanted
- Mildly wanted
- Least wanted
- Other

French Brook had 1 most wanted, 3 mildly wanted, 0 least wanted and 1 other
Baker Brook had 0 most wanted, 1 mildly wanted, 1 least wanted and 2 other
Railroad Brook had 5 most wanted, 5 mildly wanted, 2 least wanted and 0 other
Water pennies were found in all three brooks. Baker Brook had low water flow. Railroad Brook had a smell of heating oil. B. Cataldo noted that it was a tough year because of the drought.

5.5 Peak Foliage Hike Results

Seven people participated in this hike at Herrick Park. It was a beautiful day. No trees were blocking the trail. Blazes were perfectly aligned. No mile-a-minute invasive weed was spotted. A. Bicknell would like to cut back the invasive multi-flora roses. Work parties will be held in Herrick Park and/or Freja Park every month beginning in 2021.

5.6 Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM Data Collection

Now that the streams are running again, monitoring can resume. Railroad Brook would be a good starting location. The monitors were usually changed twice a year but once a year is sufficient. Monitoring can be staggered between locations. P. Van Dine will familiarize himself with the tidbit to see how it works. Dates will be determined to set up teams of two people to set up the monitors. Weekends were better for the majority of BCC members.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Charter Revision Proposal

P. Van Dine submitted the following comments: At a recent meeting the Bolton Charter Revision Commission discussed the possibility of combining the Inland Wetlands Commission with the Planning and Zoning Commission. I am opposed to this idea and believe the Conservation Commission should advise the Charter Commission that this consolidation would not be in the best interest of the Town.

We all agree that wetlands and watercourses are far easier to destroy than they are to remediate or restore. I believe that the Charter Commission is in agreement with that concept. Rather, the Charter Commission wishes to reduce the number of Board and Commissions and avoid scheduling problems among these bodies. Their principal goal appeared to center around solving the problem of deadlines for approval decisions conflicting with the schedules of the two Commissions. I would propose that a better way of resolving this conflict would be to require that wetlands issues be considered at the beginning of a development project and establish a scheduling system whereby the project application would be immediately proceed to Planning and Zoning on the resolution of the wetlands issues. Such a system would maintain the expertise of each Commission while expediting the whole approval process.

Peter read his above statement aloud and added the following points: The Planning and Zoning Commission could be forced to make a decision before the Inland Wetlands Commission has decided on an issue. The two commissions could be in conflict with each other as far as meeting dates.

R. Parlee felt that the thoughts of the Charter Revision Committee were fairly vague and that everything is still very preliminary. R. Parlee stated that CACIWC has a published a position statement (white paper) with many concerns about combining the Inland Wetlands Commission with the Conservation Commission. This should be watched carefully.

P. Van Dine stated that if these concerns are in the BCC minutes than at least the BCC is on record that they don't think that the combining of the two commissions is a good idea. J. Laughman also feels that the BCC should express some concern about combining the two

commissions. A. Bicknell feels that all concerns are valid and it was good to have discussion on the issue. R. Parlee agreed that the Conservation Commission minutes will still reflect this discussion but feels that it is still too preliminary as the Charter Revision Commission minutes for October were still in draft state. He would like to wait until it is known for sure what their plan is for the future.

This topic will be added to the agenda for next month

6.2 CIPWG Symposium Report

This was discussed under correspondence.

6.3 Freja Park and Notch Pond

R. Parlee and J. Laughman conducted a mini work party in Freja Park on Saturday, relocating and replacing a stolen sign and reinstalling the stolen logbook on the kiosk. At the fork in the trail, the right hand trail was completely blocked by snow laden Autumn Olive.

R. Parlee flew his drone on Saturday in the commuter lot. There was silted water coming up from Notch Pond forming a plume where the BCC had been checking the stream temperature in the past. Possibilities of what would cause this were discussed. P. Van Dine asked if it was still there. R. Parlee will monitor.

6.4 Proposal to Add Osprey Platform

R. Parlee spoke with Jeff Fengler who works at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor. He asked that the BCC look into installing an osprey platform on the island in Notch Pond. He has observed a pair of ospreys' numerous times over the pond. This would have to take place in the winter when the pond is frozen.

P. Vine Dine asked how much construction would be involved and what materials would be needed. Mr. Fengler suggested asking CTDEEP about someone who constructs the platforms. R. Parlee suggested the Commission contact Wildlife Biologist Peter Picone about platform construction. The BCC members thought that this was a good idea. R. Parlee and J. Laughman will move forward and report back. A. Bicknell noted that a pair of ospreys has been spotted on Bolton Lake.

6.5 BCC Events Sign Up Sheet

J. Laughman mentioned that there should be a signup sheet at events so that people can be identified for calendar pictures. Permission would have to be granted by participants. No specific BCC member volunteered at this time although R. Parlee said that he would bring a clipboard to events and A. Bicknell was also willing to take care of a signup sheet if he was at an event. M. Rivers was also mentioned as a possibility of being responsible for signups.

6.3 SCT, FBL and BLWCA Reports

SCT achieved their goal of a bronze ranking. Silver will be the next goal.

The BLWCA submitted a request to the Town of Tolland IWWA to consider increasing their upland review area to 200 feet around the Atlantic white cedar.

P. Van Dine noted that the lakes drawdown this year needs more monitoring. Two depth monitors were purchased. There is no news on the dam project. It has been approved but it is unlikely that construction will happen this winter. Richard Jewell and R. Parlee noticed a party in Vernon dumping compost near the MBL/LBL dam. The FBL is aware of the problems with this homeowner. He has stopped some of his procedures. R. Parlee also noticed that the area to the left of the boat launch, at the lower dam, near the rock lined walk way, there is an area where someone dumped a lot of concrete some time ago. Perhaps it was the state reinforcing riprap.

The next meeting of the BLWCA will be held on December 7, 2020.

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

8.0 Adjournment

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the virtual meeting at 9:36 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 1, 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.

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