

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Monday December 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting Utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine and Alternate Matthew Rivers (left the virtual meeting at 8:55)

**1.0 Preliminaries**

**1.1 Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

**1.2 Minutes Review of November 5, 2020 Regular Meeting**

These two amendments were recommended:

**Under 6.1 Charter Revision Proposal**

In paragraph four, in the third sentence, correct “combining the Inland Wetlands Commission with the Conservation Commission” to “combining the Inland Wetlands Commission with the Planning & Zoning Commission”

**The next meeting date should have been listed as December 7, 2020**

J. Laughman made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

**2.0 Public Comment:** None

**3.0 Correspondence:**

Final 2021 calendar

Budget letter from Town Administrator Joshua Kelly for the FY 2021-2022 budget

Email response to Rod Parlee dated Friday, October 30, 2020, from Cliff Scorso regarding French Brook. He wanted to know about erosion and a couple of trees blocking the stream. R. Parlee asked Barbara Kelly about removing trees from the brook. Rod feels that they should be cleared but that it is not a requirement. Rod also asked Barbara Kelly about Mr. Scorso pumping water from the stream to water his flowers. Ms. Kelly wanted to know the location of the pump so that she can investigate. She believes that it is a permitted and/or regulated activity. Mr. Scorso also asked about the process of determining if a water storage structure would be allowed on his property.

J. Laughman noted that there were many small branches in the stream at the time of the Riffle Bio. There is a lot of debris in the stream that does not allow for smooth stream flow. R. Parlee will follow up with Barbara Kelly about this matter. P. Van Dine noted that many people pump water out of the lake to water their plants. Herbicide from the lake could be inadvertently used on their property to the detriment of their plantings.

R. Parlee shared that in the past, many more most wanted macroinvertebrates were found in this area. This has changed in the last 3-4 years. J. Laughman noted that there has been a drought in the last couple of years that could affect results. R. Parlee offered to circulate better aerial photographs of upstream parcels.

Email from Diane Hoffman regarding the 2020 Forest Action Plan. She is asking people to support the CT DEEP making a strong clear statement in the 2020 Forest Action Plan opposing the installation of solar facilities in Connecticut forests.

Notice from the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England- The "Registry of Soil Scientists" brochure will only be available online through 2021. There will not be any hard copies available at Town Hall.

July/August Edition of CT Wildlife

Letter dated October 30, 2020 from CT Land Conservation Council

Arc News by ESRI Fall 2020 issue

ESRI News Fall 2020 issue

Holiday catalog from Forestry Suppliers

R. Parlee sent an Email to Town Administrator Joshua Kelly and First Selectman Sandra Pierog regarding the viable greenway proposed at the November 10, 2020 BOS meeting for the Nathan Hale Corridor. He is concerned that the BCC isn't part of the Trails Commission. He feels that the BCC has valuable information to share and the BCC has developed many other trails. Mr. Kelly agreed that the BCC could have valuable input but the vast amount of work has already been done by Gwen Marrion. P. Van Dine suggested that the BCC contact Ms Marrion and cc: Mr. Kelly to become more involved with the Trails Commission. R. Parlee will put together that correspondence. A. Bicknell noted that turtle eggs have been found at that parking location and that should be a concern when developing the trail. P. Van Dine noted that the trail should not be open to motorized vehicles or bicycles. It should only be a walking trail. R. Parlee has suggested in the past and continues to support the idea of looking into establishing a "Blue Blazed" hiking trail on the Nathan Hale Greenway.

All BCC members are requested to attend the virtual Joint Land Use Board meeting on Monday December 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. R. Parlee will prepare a report to present at the meeting. P. Van Dine will review the report and add content if needed.

#### **4.0 Financial Report:**

P. Van Dine emailed the Financial Report to all BCC members. Six calendar ads from sponsors have been paid for and received. \$873.00 was spent for calendar printing. The PO for calendar printing was approved for \$1,150.00 so more calendars could be printed if needed.

Calendars have been given to sponsors and they are for sale at several locations in Town.

A. Bicknell made a motion to authorize the BCC Chairman or Treasurer to have more calendars printed if needed within the bounds of the current purchase order (\$277.00 remains). M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously. A decision may be made by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Highland Park Market has offered to sell calendars that they will purchase upfront. They will be responsible for sales tax.

#### **4.1 Freja Park Brochures & Calendars**

Freja Park brochures have been received. 120 were printed at a cost of \$60.00. They don't last very long at the kiosk in Freja Park. The Calendar looks fantastic and the donation page really pops. B. Cataldo's work on the calendar was praised.

#### **4.2 Proposed Budget for FY 2021**

All commissions in Town have received a request from Joshua Kelly to come up with a proposed budget for FY 2022. R. Parlee shared the excel spreadsheet.

P. Van Dine suggested a budget increase. Payroll should be increased to cover all proposed yearly meetings rather than moving funds around later in the year. The Professional Education amount should be increased to cover the educational needs of new members. General Supplies should cover the cost of recycled paper and inks if needed. Budget requests are due by December 23, 2020.

Mr. Kelly is offering to hold mock board review sessions for anyone who is interested in presenting their proposal to the BOS in person. P. Van Dine would like to participate in this. He feels that the practice session would be helpful.

M. Rivers made a motion to request and accept a FY 2022 budget of \$1,800.00 to be divided among the different accounts as follows: Payroll \$1,105.00, Professional and Educational Services \$400.00, General Supplies \$145.00 and Dues and Fees \$150.00. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.3 CACIWC Annual Meeting**

R. Parlee thinks that the BCC should work towards creating a groundwater resource inventory. 23% of the State's wells are private and most of Bolton relies on raw, untreated water. We should all know where our drinking water comes from. J. Laughman noted that monitoring groundwater and looking at sources is a good idea. The BCC members think this is worth pursuing. Peter noted that even if you are served by a private water company, your water comes from wells. The difference is that the Water Company monitors the water. R. Parlee also expressed the need for well owners to test their water regularly.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$90.00 payable to CACIWC from the Professional Education Fund for the attendance of three BCC members (A. Bicknell, J. Laughman and R. Parlee) to the CACIWC annual meeting that was held on Saturday, December 5, 2020. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously. R. Parlee is still waiting for an invoice.

The CT Land Conservation Council received \$25.00 from the BCC last year. P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 to the CT Land Conservation Council from the Dues and Fees account for 2020-21. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **5.0 Continuing Business**

### **5.1 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition “Town for All Seasons” 2021 Calendar Sales & Distribution**

W. H Preuss and the Route 6 and 44 package store are new calendar sale locations. Other sale locations are England Hardware, Bentley Library, Town Hall, Cropley’s Garden Center and Highland Park Market is also selling calendars but they are purchasing them from the BCC in advance.

### **5.2 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest Prizes and Donation Request Flyer**

B. Cataldo produced a legal size flyer advertising the photo contest. The flyers are displayed in the windows of the locations that are selling the calendars. The donation request flyer really pops this year.

### **5.3 Calendar Ads**

Payment has been received from six of the sponsors.

### **5.4 Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM Data Collection and Logger Locations**

R. Parlee and P. Van Dine plan to together this week to put loggers in French Brook and Baker Brook.

### **5.5 Charter Revision**

This discussion will be carried over to January. R. Parlee has read the minutes of the Charter Revision Commission and has listened to their meetings and feels that they are doing a very thorough job. P. Van Dine noted that when they come up with a proposed charter it has to be submitted to the BOS and voted on by the public. CT DEEP will weigh in on the proposition of combining the Inland Wetlands and P&Z Commission.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 Results of CACIWC 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference**

J. Laughman and R. Parlee reported that the introductory program by the director of CAES was very informative. The State Water Plan information was interesting. They mentioned using drones to view blue green algae. They are encouraging towns to map all private wells. No waste water discharges are allowed into public water supplies. Denise Savageau will be a good resource for questions. A. Bicknell enjoyed the invasive species information. There was a suggestion of setting up a water supply team in the town including the Fire Chief and BCC and Inland Wetlands members. The Water Plan does not recommend that residents test their water from private wells and it should. Another CACIWC Conference is planned for June 2021. R. Parlee suggests solar farms in forests as a workshop.

## **6.2 Freja Park Trailhead Improvement & Work Party on January 9, 2021**

J. Laughman noted that work is needed on mugwort. It takes at least five years of monitoring. There is also autumn olive that needs removal. The pullerbear tools held in storage at Town Hall can be used to remove invasive species. They grab the base of the stems and pull them out by the roots. If ground is frozen they can't be used.

R. Parlee proposes to at least take a walk and remove trash and add blazes to get ready for Winter Trails Day on January 16, 2021. Invasive control would be challenging due to frozen ground. Bring hand saws, garbage bags. A. Bicknell and J. Laughman are tentatively interested in participating. R. Parlee wants to spruce up the entrance.

The work party will start at 11:00 a.m.

## **6.3 Osprey Platform Proposal for Notch Pond**

R. Parlee said that the latest issue of CT Wildlife noted that the osprey is an iconic resident. It is one of the greatest conservation success stories and the species has rebounded. It is off the list of endangered species.

J. Laughman noted that we may not get an osprey to nest on the platform. R. Parlee talked to Jeff Fengler of CAES who suggested asking the CT DEEP for direction and suitable locations. P. Van Dine said that the CT DEEP has their own special areas where they put up platforms and he mentioned that it would be easier to install a platform along the shoreline. R. Parlee will mention this to Jeff Fengler and will report back. He will also reach out to some CACIWC directors. R. Parlee stated that ospreys have nested this far north and two were observed gathering nesting material this spring in Notch Pond.

P. Van Dine asked how material would get out to the island and he mentioned that the island may not really be a true island. It may be underwater when there is not a drought. R. Parlee offered to fly his drone over the area to investigate. Materials may be available for the platform from CT DEEP but no materials for the supporting structure. How to get an 18 foot pole to the site? How to install at least 4 feet in the ground? R. Parlee will mention this thought at the next BLWCA meeting.

J. Laughman noted that the nests can be pretty heavy as they add to them every year. She will get more information from Peter Picone.

More information is needed before proceeding.

## **6.4 Winter Trails Day on January 16, 2021**

This is an annual event. It was held at Rose Farm last year. This year, participants will meet at the commuter lot and walk Freja Park with a loop around Notch Pond and an option hike the Mohegan Trail if weather permits.

## **6.5 White Oak Sapling**

R. Parlee proposed that the BCC donate the white oak sapling to the "BCC commissioner of the year". J. Laughman made a motion to give it to Brenda Cataldo for her work on the 2021 calendar. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **6.6 Bolton Lakes Watershed Management Plan Survey**

<https://forms.gle/NbXZJPqjWzo7PnkW7>

R. Parlee hopes that everyone has clicked the link and answered the survey. P. Van Dine said that the more people who respond to the survey, the better. Encourage your neighbors and friends in other Coventry, Tolland and Vernon to participate.

## **6.7 SCT, FBL and BLWCA Reports**

The SCT meeting was held last week. Bolton is currently at bronze level and that standing is good for three years. The plan is to move towards silver status. There was talk about crowd funding. Electrical charging stations are needed in Town. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2021.

The FBL are working with other towns to get a Bolton Lakes Watershed management plan in place. P. Van Dine noted that Hillary Kenyon who works at NE Aquatic Research is taking money from a grant to put together a draft of the plan.

The next BLWCA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 9, 2020. They will be discussing the 319 grant and 9 point EPA components to that. They will stress the importance of filling out the survey and will be talking about the response from the Town of Tolland regarding their upland review area around the Atlantic White Cedar.

## **7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice**

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

## **8.0 Adjournment**

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the virtual meeting at 9:44 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2021 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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