

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

January 6, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Bolton Town Hall

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine and 1 member of the public, Matthew Rivers

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

1.2 Minutes Approval of December 5, 2019 Regular Meeting

B. Cataldo moved to approve the minutes as submitted. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 3:0:2 (Laughman and Van Dine abstained)

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Correspondence:

Friends of Valley Falls Inc. Newsletter, Fall 2019

R. Parlee submitted a picture of a homeless encampment near Freja Park

Email from Kathy McCavanagh regarding Freedom of Information training on February 24, 2019, 7:00 at Town Hall. A. Bicknell, B. Cataldo, J. Laughman, M. Rivers and P. Van Dine plan to attend.

Letter dated June 10, 2018 from the BCC to Gwen Marrion, president of the Bolton Land Trust regarding the Bobcat Woods parcel. The BCC was supportive of the acquisition as long as Best Management Practices are followed. P. Van Dine and the commission members are interested in getting a tour of the property by the Land Trust.

R. Parlee shared a news article regarding the construction of the new Cumberland Farms at 2224 Boston Turnpike at the intersection of Route 31 in Coventry. There was discussion about the traffic patterns at that intersection and other intersections along Route 44.

4.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine presented the financial report. J. Laughman moved to accept the Treasurers report as submitted. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4.1 FY 20-21 Budget Request

The budget request was the same as FY 19-20. P. Van Dine presented the proposed budget request document.

The major responsibilities of the BCC are the management of Freja Park and the natural part of Herrick Park. Also important is the promotion of the enjoyment of nature and the environment.

The Commission is responsible for the education of the commission members through attendance at conferences. The public is educated through Citizen Science efforts.

There was no budget increase requested, nor an anticipation of leftover funds.

Within the next three years, possible reasons for a requested budget increase include an increase in the clerk's payroll formula, increases in dues and fees.

Any decrease in the already bare bones budget would detrimentally affect the operation of the BCC.

A. Bicknell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's proposed budget for FY 20-21. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4.2 Composter Sales & Reimbursement

Two composters have been sold although payment is pending on one.

4.3 RBV Supply-Purchases, Non-profit Status

J. Laughman will research the purchase process and how to handle sales tax with the Finance Department.

4.4 Calendar Ads, Sales, Tax

P. Van Dine had a conversation with the Finance Department regarding the collection of sales tax on calendar sales. Cropley's apparently collected sales tax on this year's calendar sales.

4.5 Citizen Science Fund Outreach

No funds have been received from the donation envelopes that were included in the calendars. J. Laughman suggested bringing donation envelopes on scheduled hikes. R. Parlee suggested asking for donation requests through Facebook.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Additional Order of 2020 Calendars (Circulation & Sales)

A. Bicknell moved to appropriate \$259.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase 30 additional calendars. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

125 brochures for Freja Park were also received.

5.2 Results of Winter Faire Tabling on Saturday, December 7, 2019

R. Parlee noted that the Recreation Department ran the Winter Faire this year. There was a good turnout. One composter and 16-18 calendars were sold.

Many Citizen Science photos were displayed. These can be used in the showcase at the Bentley Library in March.

The library showcase and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day will be added to the February agenda.

5.3 2020 Photo Contest Flyer

Photos have already been received for the contest.

5.4 Freja/Herrick/BNSP Trail Monitor Report

R. Parlee went over the rules and DEEP number to call if issues arise (860-424-3333). Take pictures, send a report to the Commission and don't confront negativity. P. Van Dine suggested that R. Parlee write up a list of monitoring responsibilities.

The Herrick Park gold trail needs to be monitored.

5.5 BCC Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM/RBV Data Collection Status

R. Parlee will be placing a tidbit (formerly a hobo) in Northwestern Connecticut for the Appalachian Mountain Club. The data from the new hobos can be accessed with Bluetooth through a phone app.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Winter Trails Day on Saturday, January 11, 2020

The hike is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. starting at the commuter lot and hiking through Freja Park.

6.2 Role of BCC as pertains to Open Space

Joshua Kelly called in to give his input. The BOS discussed the fact that there is an Open Space committee that has no members and is therefore defunct. The BOS would like to add a discussion on Open Space to their agenda on a quarterly basis. Members of the Conservation Commission and the Planning Zoning Commission are invited to attend.

P. Van Dine made the suggestion that the Bolton Land Trust and Inland Wetlands Commission be included in these meetings. The Land Trust has been instrumental in mapping the Open Space in town. The BCC would like to work in cooperation with the Land Trust in this mapping initiative.

R. Parlee questioned the status of the Town's GIS. J. Kelly stated that this is maintained by CRCOG but that either he or the Land Use Department would be willing to meet with BCC members to update this.

J. Kelly welcomed input from the BCC on the acquisition of Open Space.

R. Parlee mentioned that the BCC manages Freja Park and the concern about buffers around the area, specifically the fact that there is a homeless encampment near the park. J. Kelly will speak to the State Trooper and the First Selectmen to make sure that they are aware of the situation.

R. Parlee and the Commission members thanked J. Kelly for his time.

6.3 Latest Open Space Percentage Map (Former DOT Property) and 490 Forest Property

On the Bolton Land Trust website there will be a correction made to the Open Space designation. P. Van Dine noted that privately owned open space should also be mapped. R. Parlee contacted

Doug MacGillvary of the Manchester Land Trust to discuss a piece of property that they are interested in acquiring.

P. Van Dine noted that there is also a piece of property that may be available for acquisition as open space.

The State may be interested in helping with the acquisition of a parcel that is surrounded by Bolton Notch State Park on three sides.

A member of the Bolton Land Trust allowed the Mohegan Trail to cross his property.

6.4 Sustainable CT Meeting Results

R. Parlee attended that last meeting. Testing of well water was discussed and encouraged. Tourism and cultural assets were also discussed.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

6.5 FBL and BLWCA Report

The FBL has been holding educational forums for the past 3-4 years. There has been discussion on how to manage the three lakes as one. A watershed committee made up of the four towns (Bolton, Coventry, Tolland and Vernon) is being proposed. John Williams has received a letter from Tolland and verbal confirmation from Bolton that they would like to participate.

On Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. the four towns will be meeting. Michael Carlough will be attending.

6.6 FY 18-19 Annual Report

This was due on December 31, 2019. R. Parlee put together the minutes for the past year and shared some interesting statistics.

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

P. Van Dine moved to accept the Clerk's invoice as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8.0 Adjournment

A. Bicknell moved to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2020, 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.

