

## **BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Regular Meeting**

**March 2, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

**Bolton Town Hall**

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Brenda Cataldo (arrived at 8:43 p.m.), Jean Laughman, Matthew Rivers and Peter Van Dine

### **1.0 Preliminaries**

#### **1.1 Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

#### **1.2 Minutes Approval of February 3, 2020 Regular Meeting**

J. Laughman moved to accept the minutes as submitted. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed 3:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

**2.0 Public Comment:** None

### **3.0 Correspondence**

#### **3.1 Forever Wild Toolkit**

All Land Trusts will be encouraged to accept the Forever Wild conservation easements for their properties. BCC members will review the Forever Wild Toolkit and consider a resolution at the next meeting.

#### **3.2 FOIA Workshop Report**

The "Highlights of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act" pamphlet was reviewed. P. Van Dine noted that the highlight of the February 24, 2020, meeting concerned requirements of meeting minute content. Voting statistics are the most important part of the minutes, all else is secondary. The public needs to be aware that they can attend meetings. J. Laughman noted that RBV's and trail monitoring are considered a meeting and data results should be publically available. R. Parlee noted that the results of RBV's and trail monitoring are noted in the minutes of the next official meeting. Email communications between commission members should not exclude any member. Permission to record a meeting is not required but meetings should be conducted as if they are being recorded. Executive session can be held if necessary. No votes can be taken in executive session.

### **Other Communication**

Email communication received from David Buckley regarding the seep well on the Mohegan Trail in Bolton Notch State Park. CT DEEP will be covering the well temporarily and said that closing the rogue trail would be a good idea.

\$5.00 Coupon from Ladd's Garden Center may be used in their fairy house gift shop.

Bike Walk Bolton is proposing motion activated solar powered daytime lighting in the tunnel. M. Rivers brought up the idea of a sunlight reflector. M. Rivers may contact Barbara Amodio to discuss ideas and get more information.

The New Leaf newsletter, Winter/Spring 2020 issue by the CT Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation

Email received from Joshua Kelly asking if the BCC would ask photo contest participants to consent to having their photos used for a State tourism website. P. Van Dine felt that because of the size of this undertaking, Town staff should be used to contact the participants. And, the Town should review and select the photos first and then contact only those participants. J. Laughman thinks that only contest winners should be considered. R. Parlee to ask if we could begin with the calendar photo submissions first.

#### **4.0 Financial Report**

P. Van Dine shared the financial report. J. Laughman moved to request transfer of \$35.00 from Office Operating Supplies to Payroll. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.1 Composter Sales and PR**

A \$55.00 check for a composter payment bounced. The Town will absorb the bounced check fee. Composters will be sold for \$55.00 at the library. Advertising for composter sales will be on the "Everything Bolton" Facebook page.

#### **4.2 Citizen Science Calendar Donations and Appropriation for 2 Loggers**

A contribution was made through the calendar envelopes but was deposited to the General Fund in error. A correction has been made and Town Staff have been informed to watch for future mail addressed to the BCC.

The State will no longer be loaning any organizations monitoring equipment although they will continue performing quality checks on the equipment. M. Rivers made a motion to approve up to \$290.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for the purpose of acquiring two stream loggers from Onset. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.3 RBV Supply-Purchases**

Wells Lamont PVC lined shoulder high gloves were proposed for purchase. J. Laughman made a motion to appropriate up to \$150.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase 3 pairs of these DEEP sanctioned gloves. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Frogg Togg waders were proposed for purchase. M. Rivers made a motion to appropriate up to \$150.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase three pairs of hip waders for RBV monitoring (one size 8, one size 9 and one size 11). P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.4 Calendar Sales & Collection**

\$20.00 was received from calendar sales at the library and B. Cataldo submitted \$70.00 from England Hardware. J. Laughman made a motion to reduce the 2020 calendar price to \$5.00 for the remaining calendars. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.5 NCCD Plant & Seedling Sale**

P. Van Dine noted that the purchase cost of plants has gone down consecutively in recent years.

R. Parlee spoke to the NCCD about placing a special order of four 3-gallon white oaks at \$54.00 each through Prides Corner. These will be used for first prize winners of the photo contest.

Four Rose Bay Rhododendrons will be purchased for \$32.00 each. These will be used for second prize winners of the photo contest.

Four Bush Honeysuckle will be purchased for \$24.00 each. These will be used for third prize winners of the photo contest.

A bundle of twenty bare root Frasier Fir seedlings will be purchased at a cost of \$25.00 for Earth Day prizes.

Two bags of compost to be used as potting material for the seedlings will be purchased for \$9.00 each. J. Laughman will supply the planting containers.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up to \$500.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase plants and supplies from the NCCD plant sale for photo contest and Earth Day prizes. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Parlee will order the plants online. The order deadline is April 8, 2020.

#### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

##### **5.1 BCC Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM Equipment Shortage/RBV Data Collection**

Discussed in 4.2.

##### **5.2 Photo Contest PR & “Save the Date” with 300 Year Anniversary Events**

Save the Date cards and Vernal Pool brochures were distributed to all Commission members.

R. Parlee asked Joshua Kelly to include all BCC events in the 300<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary online calendar. The apparent size of the BCC events is an issue expressed by the Anniversary Committee. M. Rivers feels that no matter how small the participation numbers may be, all events are equally important and the educational opportunities are very important as well. J. Laughman noted that conserving the rural character of the town has always been important. This topic will be added to the April agenda for additional discussion.

### **5.3 Library Exhibit for March**

R. Parlee helped A. Bicknell set up the library display.

### **5.4 March 13, Community Resource Fair BCS 6-8 p.m.**

Flyer was received from Kyleen Mike. The BCC is registered. Many Town programs and services will be represented. The BCC will be tabling at this event. Information on the spotted lanternfly, rain gardens, "Backyard Water Resources" and "Invasive Plants for your Back Yard" will be added to the display

### **5.5 March 25, Sustainable CT Meeting**

R. Parlee summarized the last meeting from the draft minutes. R. Parlee stated that the committee has initiated a well water testing campaign and the BCC should support this. Organic food waste was discussed. There is the potential for a solar panel installation at Bolton High School. The Smart Trash Program will be reviewed. There was a recommendation to start a community garden at Indian Notch State Park.

### **5.6 Bobcat Woods Walk and Management Recommendations**

A letter will be sent to Gwen Marrion asking for conditions on the Forest Service Grant as noted in 3.1.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 Proposed Trail Monitoring Policy & Procedure**

The draft of the BCC recommended Trail Monitoring Policy & Procedure was distributed. It was noted that the app GPC Track Kit would be helpful in turning a cell phone into a GPSM. Rivers moved to accept the Trail Monitoring Policy & Procedure dated February 25, 2020, as corrected. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **6.2 March 21, Vernal Pools Day and Brochure**

The Vernal Pools brochure was distributed. B. Cataldo will contact the printer for an invoice. Vernal Pools day will be held on March 22, 2020. A. Bicknell and J. Laughman will be the hike leaders. M. Rivers will be the sweep. R. Parlee will attend for a brief discussion before the hike.

R. Parlee will contact the Journal Inquirer to promote Vernal Pools Day and the Photo Contest.

### **6.3 April 25, Earth Day-50 "Nature Blitz"**

A flyer was distributed noting the events. The 12:00 Noon "Break for Lunch" will be removed from the flyer. One of the Frasier Fir seedlings will be planted after the fairy house contest. The 2:00 p.m. stream temperature monitoring will be held at Freja Park by the bridge.

### **6.4 June 7, Trails Day**

Dave Boone, Trail Chair from the CT AMC will be attending on Sunday and discussing trail design and maintenance. Parking will be available at the upper Munson's lot. The CVC will be taping the Bike Walk Bolton Ride on Saturday.

### **6.5 FBL and BLWCA Report, EPA 319 Grant Application**

P. Van Dine reported that the 319 grant application will not be submitted this year. The deadline has passed. The Town of Coventry did not support the application.

Property on Route 44 near Old Hartford Turnpike (in Coventry and Bolton) was to be developed but extension of the sewer system is in dispute.

A meeting recommending a single drawdown date was held last week at the Vernon mayor's office. The DPW would need to approve the drawdown plan.

The Conservation Alliance will be invited to an upcoming FBL meeting in April.

R. Parlee attended the last BLWCA meeting. He was asked if the BCC could look for other sources of funding due to the 319 grant not being pursued.

### **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**

B. Cataldo moved to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 6, 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.

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