

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
May 4, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING utilizing ZOOM

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine. Town Administrator Joshua Kelly attended for a short time.

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order-Roll Call

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

1.2 Minutes Approval of April 6, 2020 Regular Meeting

Under 5.1 Should note that 2 tidbits will be put into the streams at locations to be determined. B. Cataldo moved to accept the minutes as amended. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Correspondence:

Photos from the Vernal Pool hike

Aerial view of the Box Mountain clear-cut showing the proximity to Freja Park

Email response to R. Parlee from Susan Masino regarding his questions about the Bobcat Woods-Community Forest Plan Requirements

Information from PPT by Ed Faison, Senior Ecologist from the Highstead Foundation regarding the role of unmanaged forests in climate mitigation and adaptation: the benefits of proforestation

Bolton's 300th Anniversary Calendar

CT Trails Day – Celebrate Bolton-Trail map with noted points of interest

NRCS document of conservation practices with life spans

Correspondence with NRCS

Notice from Eversource including map of tree trimming to start March 2020

NRCS Conservation Program Application

4.0 Chairman's Report

There is possible development on Box Mountain. R. Parlee is looking into the intent of the NRCS EQIP grant program.

5.0 Financial Report:

P. Van Dine shared the Financial Report via Email. The refund from the CCLC conference has been sent but has not been received by the Town. At the current rate of spending, the salary account will be deficient by at least \$25.00. P. Van Dine made a motion to request a transfer of \$35.00 from Office Operating Supplies to Salary. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5.1 Onset Order

The order is complete and is noted on the Financial Report.

5.2 Calendar Sales & Collection

B. Cataldo thinks that there are still calendars at England Hardware and she still has a couple at her house. There are also calendars at the Library.

5.3 Fairy House Building Contest Prizes

No prizes have been purchased. The purchase order has been cancelled.

5.4 NCCD Seedling Sale

The plants/trees have been purchased and received. The Frasier Fir seedlings have been potted. The seedlings may be given out on Heritage Farm Day if it is held in October.

5.5 CLCC Conference Refund

Mentioned above under **5.0**.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 BCC Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM Equipment Shortage/RBV Data Collection

The BCC owns 4 hobos and a pendant. The BCC previously had the use of 6 monitors from the State. P. Van Dine thinks that it would be wise to change the monitoring locations. R. Parlee asked P. Van Dine to put together a map of monitoring locations. Data needs to be collected from the monitors in Freja Park and Railroad Brook. Procedures need to be reassessed to comply with social distancing.

Discussion ensued about what account to use for the purchase of additional monitoring equipment. Two additional stream loggers would make collecting data more efficient by swapping out instead of waiting for data to load on shuttle. P. Van Dine will discuss options with Joshua Kelly and this will be addressed at the June meeting.

6.2 Library Exhibit for March-Material P/U Status

R. Parlee thanked the staff at Bentley Library in a post on Facebook and included pictures of the BCC display. A. Bicknell will contact the library to coordinate the return of materials.

6.3 Rescheduling of April 25, Earth Day-50 “Nature Blitz”

The Earth Day T-Shirts will be distributed at a later date. Rod and Alan hiked to the vernal pool and took video of the egg masses. Lichenologist Steve Messier also submitted four videos of his lichen inventory of Bolton Notch. The videos were posted on Facebook. Rescheduling of the Earth Day “Nature Blitz” is difficult under the current circumstances.

6.4 The Role of Unmanaged Forests

Information was received from Ed Faison, Senior Ecologist from the Highstead Foundation GC3 (Governor’s Council on Climate Change) regarding the role of unmanaged forests in climate mitigation and adaptation: the benefits of proforestation.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Photo Contest Deadline, PR, Special Meeting & Prize Distribution

B. Cataldo noted that about 12 photos have been received. R. Parlee emailed past contest participants to encourage participation this year. The contest deadline is May 10th. A BCC special meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., to select the winners. Due to the cancellation of Family Day, prize distribution needs to be rethought. The commission members felt that it would be best to deliver the prizes to the winners. Plans will be finalized at the Special Meeting.

7.2 Cancellation of Family Day & Trails Day

These events have been cancelled.

7.3 Cancellation of Trails Day-Virtual Trails Hike

Bike Walk Bolton has a virtual hike scheduled for May 16th. R. Parlee is scheduled to be a docent at Freja Park. Matt Largess will be on the Greenway Bike Path and he will be stationed at Wolf Tree. Matt Largess and Dave Boone (AMC Trails Chair) may film a short video on the Nathan Hale Greenway on behalf of Trails Day

J. Laughman noted that there was a lot of barberry and tree debris at Herrick Park but otherwise the trail was in good shape.

R. Parlee hiked in Freja Park and noted that more brochures are needed. The trails were well used but clean.

A. Bicknell hiked the Mohegan Trail. A lot of spray paint has been used on the rocks. The seep well has been covered with a large wooden platform.

7.4 Results of April 22, Sustainable CT Meeting

Sandra Pierog, Patrice Carson and Joshua Kelly have been attending these meetings. R. Parlee compiled a list of activities and workshops that the BCC has participated in. Solar panels may be added to Bolton High School. Watershed management will be addressed in future meetings.

7.5 FBL and BLWCA Report, EPA 319 Grant Application

P. Van Dine noted that the FBL is still meeting and monitoring of the lakes is continuing. There has not been any Fanwart reported in Middle Lake. P. Van Dine shared his monitoring information with Coventry. Water samples are being frozen for later testing. The phosphorus and nitrogen levels are extremely low. P. Van Dine had a conversation with Karl Prewo regarding research on Atlantic white cedar. The water level should not be too high in a cedar stand as the seedlings will not survive. The next BLWCA meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

A. Bicknell noted that he has not seen the eagles at the lake in the last 2 weeks. A drone has been sent up and eagle activity has been suspected. P. Van Dine noted that a friend of his has seen a nesting pair of eagles at the lake.

7.6 Charter Commission

P. Van Dine noted his concern about the possible combination of the BCC and the Inland Wetlands Commission. There has not yet been any discussion about this in the Charter Revision Commission meetings.

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

A. Bicknell moved to accept the Clerk's invoice as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9.0 Adjournment

J. Laughman moved to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 1, 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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