

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Jean Laughman, Peter Van Dine and Alternate Matt Rivers (left at 8:56 p.m.)

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of July 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

Under **6.4 FBL and BLWCA Report**, 4th paragraph, second line, change personal to personnel.

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

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine presented the financial report details.

4.1 Delivery of Two Stream Temperature Monitors

The two stream temperature monitors were received from Onset in July.

4.2 Budget for FY 2021-22

Payroll is now handled outside of the BCC budget. The current budget categories are Professional Education and Training, Office Supplies, Dues and Fees and the Conservation Activity Fund.

4.3 Freja Park Brochure

A. Bicknell made a motion to expend \$84.00 out of the Office Supplies accounts to purchase 150 Freja Park brochures. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

4.4 Annual Memberships i.e. CACIWC, BLT, FBL, etc.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$75.00 for half of the joint combined CACIWC sustaining membership fee with Inland Wetlands Commission by a single letter to the Finance Department for both commissions. A. Bicknell seconded. To be appropriated from the Dues and Fees account. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

B. Cataldo made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees account for annual membership to the BLT. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees account for annual membership to the FBL. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

After discussion, A. Bicknell retracted the above motion. Individuals can join the FBL to support them as desired.

5.0 Continuing Business

5.1 Invasive Species Education

R. Parlee would like to continue with this education initiative after all of the work that was put into the showcase at the library. He asked A. Bicknell and J. Laughman if they would be interested in coordinating this. Perhaps by holding a workshop on invasive species at the library and working with CIPWG. Current COVID restrictions may prevent this. A Zoom presentation may be an alternate option. A. Bicknell will follow up with the library to see what meeting options there are. Presentation ideas were discussed as this will require a great degree of planning.

The BCC agreed to host a recycling showcase at the library in February 2022. J. Laughman will contact Sherill Baldwin from the DEEP for presentation ideas. Recycling penalties and how to enforce non-compliance was discussed.

The BCC focus will be on putting together the February showcase at the library but invasive species education will be considered in the future

5.2 Groundwater Resource Inventory – Sodium Testing, Notch Pond, etc.

R. Parlee noted that Notch Pond is difficult to access until the border vegetation is cleared or dies back in the fall. Testing will have to be postponed until later in the fall.

5.3 Laboratory Analysis Account Update

P. Van Dine read through the MS4. Bolton had been receiving E. coli analysis from Phoenix Labs. He requested information from Barbara Kelly, Sandra Pierog and Jim Rupert. Ms. Kelly responded that Ms. Pierog or Mr. Rupert would be responsible for authorizing an account. The other option is for the BCC to open their own account.

P. Van Dine made a motion to formally request the Town Government through the First Selectman or Town Administrator to open an account with Phoenix Laboratory for the BCC. This would be for the purpose of surface water testing only. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

5.4 Stream Temperature Monitor Recovery

P. Van Dine felt that nothing should be done with the monitors in light of the flash flood warnings that are in effect. R. Parlee shared Bolton Pond Brook stream pictures with the BCC members. When the water levels drop, the monitors will need to be swapped out. P. Van Dine suggested just retrieving the monitors and not swapping them until after hurricane season. Coverage by silt and sand is more of a problem than the monitors being washed away. R. Parlee noted that he has access to a metal detector.

5.5 Designate BCC Volunteer Coordinator

B. Cataldo made a motion to appoint M. Rivers as a BCC Volunteer Coordinator. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Google Sheets will be used to keep a spreadsheet of participants of BCC activities. People can be contacted for participation in further events. B. Cataldo will forward any information that she has to M. Rivers.

6.0 New Business

6.1 “The Case for Riparian Corridor Protections” by WESTCOG

R. Parlee shared this document with the BCC members, read excerpts from it and suggested that all read it. P. Van Dine said that the number one problem is that a stream bordered by two towns with different regulations is hardly the way to control a riparian corridor. Which town would be in control? R. Parlee feels that the DEEP should release Inland Wetlands model regulations to help towns with uniformity. This would also help towns update their regulations.

6.2 2021-22 Calendar Planning i.e., Monthly Photos, Timeline, Ads, etc.

B. Cataldo shared the photos that are proposed for the 2021-2022 calendar. The calendars should be ready for printing by November 1, 2021. R. Parlee would like to continue the fundraising insert for this year’s calendar. Event dates will be firmed up at the next BCC meeting. R. Parlee will send these out to BCC members.

P. Van Dine will need an estimate from Hedges and Hedges for the cost of calendar printing so that he can submit a purchase order. 100 calendars were printed last year and all were sold.

B. Cataldo will follow up on getting an estimate for printing 120 calendars.

6.3 Propose 2022 BCC Meeting Dates for Calendar

The following meeting dates are proposed for 2022:

Monday, January 3, 2022

Monday, February 7, 2022

Monday, March 7, 2022

Monday, April 4, 2022

Monday, May 2, 2022

Monday, June 6, 2022

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Monday, August 1, 2022

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Monday, October 3, 2022

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Monday, December 5, 2022

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the above meeting dates for 2022. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

6.4 New RBV Date: Saturday, October 30, 2021

All BCC members confirmed that they are available on Saturday, October 30, 2021.

J. Laughman shared a macroinvertebrate identification website. Iwla.org/water/resources-for-monitors

6.5 Review Bolton Lakes 1998 Drawdown Policy

R. Parlee noted that most of the surface water of the lakes is in Vernon. Both Bolton and Vernon have to submit a proposal for drawdown dates. Peter noted that the drawdown is in effect from October to April. If the drawdowns aren't coordinated between the two towns, Lower Lake retains its same level. P. Van Dine noted that the lakes should have been drawn down before these latest large storms. The DEEP should be responsible for this especially in an emergency. The Town leaders should be in contact with the DEEP. This will be reviewed at the next BLWCA meeting. P. Van Dine would like to be able to say that it was discussed at the BCC meeting and the members are in agreement. R. Parlee suggested and P. Van Dine agreed to talk with Eric Thomas from DEEP to see if they would consider this.

6.6 FBL and BLWCA Report

FBL had a social meeting instead of a business meeting in August. A webinar forwarded by DEEP titled "Make Your Citizen Science Project Count" will be presented on September 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

BLWCA is working with the town of Vernon to update their Plan of Conservation and Development. Ideas were also previously passed along to Coventry and Tolland.

7.0 Correspondence

An invitation was received from the Bolton Land Trust. They are celebrating their 20 year anniversary with an outdoor event in September on Birch Mountain. R. Parlee will send out information to the BCC members.

8.0 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 5:0:0.

9.0 Adjournment

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 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.

