

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine

**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 Review of April 5, 2021 Regular Meeting**

A. Bicknell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. B. Cataldo abstained.

**2.0 Public Comment:** None

**3.0 Financial Report**

R. Parlee shared the financial report. B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the Treasurers report as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

\$10.00 for calendar sales was unreported by the Finance Department as of April 2, 2021.

**3.1 Recycled Paper, Seedlings**

The cost of the recycled paper was not available for this report as the Town bought the paper from their account. The invoice for the seedlings is presumed to have been paid.

**3.3 Fairy House Building Contest Prizes**

B. Cataldo is awaiting reimbursement from the Town.

**3.4 Earth Day T-Shirts and Composters**

Earth Day T-Shirts will be given away as part of the photo contest prizes.

There are two composters left from Wal-Mart to be sold for \$55.00 each. There is also one additional earth machine composter in the basement at Town Hall that can be sold.

**4.0 Continuing Business**

**4.1 Charter Revision**

The Charter Revision Commission is continuing to review the potential of combining the Inland Wetlands Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission. The process is a long one and it needs review by the BOS. The BOS wants to make it easier for permit applicants but there is concern as to whether or not the combination of the two commissions is legal.

A wetlands commission is required to submit the amount of wetlands loss to the CTDEEP annually. There is a concern that a combined commission may increase wetlands loss and there is the issue of potentially losing the Inland Wetlands agent. CACIWC and the CTDEEP continue to weigh in on this. The combining of those two commissions has already taken place locally in Manchester and Mansfield.

R. Parlee feels that this issue needs to be made more public.

#### **4.2 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest Judging – Special Meeting & Prize Delivery Dates**

A category may be added for 2022 to show protected and/or functional wetlands.

About 25 people have submitted photos. A press release about the photo contest should be in the Journal Inquirer this week. The contest deadline is May 10, 2021 at midnight. Judging will take place at a special BCC meeting.

B. Cataldo made a motion to set a special virtual meeting on May 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of judging the photos. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

A. Bicknell made an additional motion to set the special virtual meeting for May 13, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. if there is a conflict with the FBL forum. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The prize delivery date will be determined at the special meeting.

#### **4.3 Results of Earth Day and Fairy House Building Contest (4/24)**

R. Parlee compiled and shared a collage of pictures from Earth Day. The weather was good and the participants had a fun day.

#### **4.4 Kids to Park Day at Herrick (5/15)**

A. Bicknell will represent the Conservation Commission. Kyleen Mike, the Bolton Recreation Director is organizing this event. A hike is planned and length will depend on how many people participate. There is no rain date.

Ms. Kyleen Mike also asked if the Conservation Commission would be interested in speaking about pollinators at a workshop at the library in June. J. Laughman would be the lead on coordinating this. She will discuss this with her contacts at UCONN and CTDEEP

#### **4.5 Groundwater Resource Inventory-Sodium Testing, Notch Pond, etc.**

R. Parlee wants to test Notch Pond especially the outlet coming from the area of the DOT salt storage facility behind the kiosk and perhaps do testing using a kayak or canoe in Notch Pond itself.

P. Van Dine will follow up to see if the Town has an account with Phoenix Labs for water testing or if the Town will activate an account for the Conservation Commission.

#### **4.6 Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-Appropriate Funding for Two Hobos**

R. Parlee and P. Van Dine noted that it is difficult to have a limited number of hoboos and not have one to swap out when retrieving data.

There are currently seven hoboos retrieving data and one tidbit. One hobo was recently placed in the headwaters to the Hop River. Having two more hoboos would allow for monitoring at additional locations.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up \$300.00 from the Activity Fund for the purchase of two hobo V2 data loggers. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 Library Showcase – “Invasive Species: Silent; Creeping and Taking Over!”**

A. Bicknell said that there is a lot of discussion around what is and isn't an invasive. Invasives not only drown out more fragile species, they take over so that nothing else can grow there. There is nothing that will naturally eat or control an invasive species. Areas of bittersweet can be impenetrable.

Work on the display will be started at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021. J. Laughman and Alan will send photos to B. Cataldo for printing. She will also print a banner using a creepy font with the title Invasive Species: Silent. Creeping. Taking Over! J. Laughman shared a brochure titled “Connecticut’s Aquatic and Wetland Invasive Plant Identification Guide” that will be included in the display.

The library is open by appointment now. A. Bicknell will follow up with the library to see if the display can stay in place until the end of or part of June. The display is advertised on the library webpage.

### **5.2 NHG Trailhead and Trails Day (6/5)**

The town was notified of the tractor trailer tires in the parking area. The Trails Committee is concerned about the line of sight on the right of way leaving the parking area just before Bolton Collision Repair. The Trails Committee met with the owner of Bolton Collision Repair and had a survey done from Joe Dillon to try to come to a resolution. The Conservation Commission was not aware of this issue before planning the hike for Trails Day. P. Van Dine suggested asking Bolton Collision Report to refrain from parking in the line of sight that day.

R. Parlee suggested asking Munson’s for permission to park in their upper parking lot. R. Parlee will contact Sandra Pierog for her input and will then contact Munson’s for parking permission.

P. Van Dine forwarded a map to R. Parlee with better parking instructions that could be sent to registered participants.

Ticks are a concern when walking on trails. Ticks can be sent to the CT Agricultural Station in New Haven for identification and they can be tested to see they are carrying Lyme disease.

### **5.3 Freja & BNSP Map QR Code**

The commission members agreed that having a QR Code on the park kiosks would be helpful. R. Parlee will follow up on the logistics on setting these up and he asked the commission members for their help in finding a free website.

#### **5.4 Next Work Party and Puller Bears**

Rod picked up two “Puller Bears” from the Town Hall. They can be put to use at the next work party at Freja Park on June 12, 2021. One small one will be on display in the library showcase.

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

SCT has not met.

P. Van Dine reported that the current effort of the FBL is being spent on getting into a summer monitoring program and finding volunteers. They are awaiting the results of the Middle Lake survey, an update from Hillary Kenyon Garovoy on the watershed management plan and an update from Chuck Lee regarding the dam.

A Zoom forum on invasive aquatic species is tentatively planned for May 13, 2021. P. Van Dine will give A. Bicknell and J. Laughman some information on invasive aquatics for the library showcase.

R. Parlee talked about the potential of using drones for surveying. Michael Carlo spoke with him about the different software available for drones and indicated that drone surveying is very accurate. R. Parlee will follow up with Mr. Carlo regarding lake monitoring. The efforts of Mr. Carlo could be helpful in connecting the Hop River Trail and the Risley Reservoir Trail with a blue blazed trail. .

### **6.0 Correspondence:**

#### **6.1 Pignut Hickory on Heritage Farm**

Rod Met with Marty Aligata of CT notable Trees. He and others have compiled one of the largest lists of champion trees in the country. The third and fourth largest balsam poplars in Connecticut are in Herrick Park and they are listed on the website <http://oak.conncoll.edu:8080/notabletrees/>

The Pignut Hickory at Heritage Farm has grown substantially since 2008. It is now number five on the list of champion pignut hickories in Connecticut. The late Ed Richardson had said that Heritage Farm has all four hickory species: Shagbark, Mockernut, Bitternut and Pignut.

#### **6.2 Proposed Osprey Pole GPS Coordinates**

Rod shared the coordinates online with the Commission with 3 potential platform locations noted. Alan and the BCC think that “Osprey 1” would be the best hidden from people on the trail. R. Parlee will check the specs from the State for comparison.

Jeff Fengler spoke with R. Parlee about the osprey platform and an osprey was spotted on Earth Day. There were two pairs of osprey that were looking to build a nest last year on Notch Pond.

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

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

### **8.0 Adjournment**

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the virtual meeting at 9:15 p.m. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 7, 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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