

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman (left the virtual meeting from 8:04-8:09), Peter Van Dine and Alternate Matthew Rivers (left the virtual meeting at (9:03 p.m.)

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 Review of December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting

Under 5.4 Add the word “get” before “together”.

Under 6.1 In the second sentence where it mentions the presenters also using drones, it should have been noted that was unrelated to the State Water Plan.

A. Bicknell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine shared the Financial Report. J. Laughman made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3.1 Donation

A total of \$20.00 (\$10.00 each) was received from donations.

3.2 Proposed Budget for FY 2021

P. Van Dine shared the proposed budget. A request was presented to increase the total budget from \$1,625.00 to \$1,800.00.

P. Van Dine also shared the narrative that supports the request for the budget increase.

J. Laughman asked what the funds in the Conservation Activity Fund are used for. In the past it has been used to pay for dues, water monitoring equipment, composters, calendar production, etc.

The attendance fee for the three participants at the CACIWC conference has not yet been paid.

4.0 Continuing Business

4.1 10th Anniversary edition “Town for All Seasons” 2021 Calendar Sales & Distribution

The calendars are nearly sold out. The Bentley Memorial Library and Town Hall have calendars remaining. Those calendars will be moved to commercial businesses (H. W. Preuss and England Hardware).

B. Cataldo will go to Town Hall to retrieve calendars and any money received there from calendar sales. B. Cataldo, J. Laughman or R. Parlee will retrieve the calendars from the Library.

\$600.00 has been deposited for calendar sales.

R. Parlee posted calendar sale information on Facebook.

R. Parlee felt that it was a good idea to refrain from printing additional calendars.

4.2 20th Annual Photo Contest Outreach

R. Parlee mentioned that this is the first year that non-residents can submit photos. R. Parlee posted on Facebook after the big snowfall suggesting people submit photos.

R. Parlee will follow through on having a notice included in the Bolton Bulletin about the photo contest.

4.3 Groundwater Resource Inventory

J. Laughman will follow up on R. Parlee’s request to Denise Savageau. There is one water company and one community well that serves Bolton. 23% of the State drinking water supply is from private wells.

4.4 Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-V-STeM Data Collection and Logger Locations

There was too much snow and ice to install loggers in December. Early spring will be the best time to do this. P. Van Dine will check on the best dates.

4.5 Charter Revision

P. Van Dine has reviewed the recent minutes of the Charter Revision Commission.

If the Planning & Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission are combined, the proposed combined number of members would be less than the sum of the members of the two commissions as they now stand. There has not been a definite plan as to how this will be handled.

P. Van Dine suggested that the BCC think of reasons of why or why not the combination of these two commissions should occur. R. Parlee thinks that this is a matter that should be followed closely. There is still a significant amount of work to be done on the Charter and any final decision is subject to a Public Hearing.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Goals for 2021

J. Laughman said that there are many projects that the BCC is involved with and perhaps the Commission should classify the projects between those that they feel strongly and the things that would be nice to do. Trails maintenance, Trails Days and stream monitoring are standard. There is a limited amount of time for members to participate in other projects.

A. Bicknell feels that trail maintenance and eliminating invasive species is important. J. Laughman asked what invasive species he feels most strongly about controlling. He feels that in general, the entrance to Freja Park needs to be cleaned up. M. Rivers feels that instead of picking and choosing what invasive to go after, perhaps select an area in general to clear. A. Bicknell also mentioned going after invasives at their most vulnerable point. J. Laughman noted that invasives require continued maintenance over a period of about five years. P. Van Dine agreed that the control of invasives is an ongoing process and a real commitment. P. Van Dine mentioned that in working with invasives in the lake he agrees with J. Laughman that a more efficient eradication effort can be done when species are at their most vulnerable point.

J. Laughman reiterated that prioritization of projects is important and the time constraints of the commission members need to be taken into account.

R. Parlee noted that in the past, boy scouts and other volunteers in the community have been helpful in trail maintenance. P. Van Dine noted that enlisting the help of the public would be very helpful but will have to be put on hold until the COVID-19 pandemic is under control.

R. Parlee mentioned the 490 classification and having the BCC prepare a map of the owners that qualify for the classification. Time did not permit that inventory taking place in 2020.

R. Parlee reminded the Commission that they are committed to preparing a display at the Library in March. Invasive species eradication could be part of that display. P. Van Dine suggested taking pictures of the eradication tools i.e. puller bears to put in the Library display.

5.2 Results of Joint Land-Use Commission Meeting

R. Parlee mentioned that the end of Route 384 where Route 6 and Route 44 branch off is one of the most dangerous locations in the State. People can't use the bike path and cross to get to a restaurant or other business without extreme danger.

A. Bicknell heard that the cliff would be trimmed back at Notch Road Extension.

M. Rivers noted that sight lines are not as much of a problem as speed.

J. Laughman, R. Parlee and P. Van Dine were in attendance at the meeting and they felt that the BCC was well represented and the Commission's yearly achievements were noted.

5.3 Freja Park Trailhead Improvement & Work Party on January 9, 2021

A. Bicknell, J. Laughman, R. Parlee and M. Rivers are available. Members will meet at the commuter lot at 10:00 a.m. R. Parlee will take a picture of the Puller Bears at the Town Hall so that the members can get an idea of their size. Supplies to bring include loppers, saws, trash bags and paint for blazes. Brochures will be refilled at the kiosk.

5.4 Osprey Platform Proposal for Notch Pond and UBL

R. Parlee shared the information that J. Laughman received about the required permit-General Permit for Minor Coastal Structures (DEEP-OLISP-GP-2015-01) INSTALLATION OF AN OSPREY PLATFORM AND PERCH POLE

There are several distance requirements that need to be taken into account. P. Van Dine will look at maps to try to find a location that complies with the distance requirements.

5.5 Winter Trails Day on January 16, 2021

Participants will be required to register in advance. The hike will be around Notch Pond and if time permits, a loop will be added on the Mohegan Trail.

The proposed start time is 9:00 a.m. at the commuter lot with a distance of 1.5 miles to be covered in an hour or two.

5.6 SCT, FBL and BLWCA Reports

Another SCT meeting will be held this month. Silver status is the next level.

P. Van Dine spoke about FBL. The draft of the lake management plan by Hillary Kenyon and Eric Thomas should be completed soon. This plan would be submitted to the CT DEEP. If they approve it as a viable plan, there is the possibility to receive funds from a 319 grant. Storm water control is the greatest concern.

The next BLWCA meeting date has not been determined.

6.0 Correspondence:

Email from Gwen Marrion regarding the progress of the Nathan Hale Greenway trail planning. The trail has been flagged. R. Parlee would like to see a map before he walks it.

Groundwater Resource Study August 1994

General Permit for Minor Coastal Structures (DEEP-OLISP-GP-2015-01) INSTALLATION OF AN OSPREY PLATFORM AND PERCH POLE

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

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

8.0 Adjournment

J. Laughman made a motion to adjourn the virtual meeting at 9:22 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 1, 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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