

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Monday February 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting Utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo (joined the meeting at 7:13 p.m.), Jean Laughman, Peter Van Dine (joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.) and Alternate Matthew Rivers

**1.0 Preliminaries**

**1.1 Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**1.2 Minutes Review of January 4, 2021 Regular Meeting**

**Under 5.6, second paragraph:** Hillary Kenyon should read Hillary Kenyon Garovoy

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

**2.0 Public Comment:** None

**3.0 Financial Report**

R. Parlee shared the Financial Report that P. Van Dine emailed to the BCC members earlier in the day. M. Rivers made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**3.1 CACIWC Invoice**

P. Van Dine noted that the invoice will be paid shortly.

**3.2 Donations**

\$145.00 has been received from donations. Payment of \$100.00 was received for the last remaining calendar ad.

**3.3 Sale of Calendars**

\$190.00 was deposited in January from calendar sales. An additional \$60.00 has been collected. One calendar remains unsold and will be archived at the library.

**3.4 Appropriation for Water Analysis**

M. Rivers forwarded information from the CDC and a link from the CTDEEP regarding private well testing to R. Parlee for review. Further information is needed to determine what analysis may be needed. Discussion will continue next month based on the response from Cortman.

## **4.0 Continuing Business**

### **4.1 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest Outreach**

A new flyer has been produced from the page that was included in the calendar. R. Parlee forwarded this information to Media Coordinator Gary Silver who will post it on the Town website. R. Parlee also posted the flyer on the Bolton Conservation Commission and Everything Bolton Facebook pages.

### **4.2 Groundwater Resource Inventory Metrics**

R. Parlee shared a response he received from Denise Savageau that answered questions he had sent her. R. Parlee will forward this information to the BCC members. Many homeowners are not aware of the need to test private wells. P. Van Dine noted that there may be more pollution runoff from the DOT storage facility next to the commuter lot than from the highway itself.

### **4.3 Volunteer Monitoring Initiative**

P. Van Dine filled out a survey from Meghan Lally regarding the BCC's participation in the V-Stem Network. The survey was shared with the other BCC members. J. Laughman asked if a report could be published in the Bolton Bulletin. A. Bicknell suggested having a presentation at the library when possible so that the public could ask questions.

P. Van Dine accepted Meghan Lally's offer of more stream temperature monitors to be used for the upcoming season.

### **4.4 Charter Revision**

P. Van Dine reviewed the 2021 minutes of the Charter Revision Committee. A Public Hearing will be held this Thursday at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom. The information for the Public Hearing can be found on the Town website. The BCC feels that combining the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission is not a good idea. The Charter Revision Commission has presented a plan to the BOS and this may be discussed at the Public Hearing.

Wetlands development is being discussed for behind the Town Hall. There is a unique vernal pool located there that Ed Pawlak is involved in with a CAWS study. P Van Dine thinks that it's interesting that the Town Hall can possibly expand into wetlands. R. Parlee noted that if there is a feasible and prudent alternative, it needs to be explored.

### **4.5 Library Display Case Update**

This is on hold. The library is still closed and there is no date for an anticipated opening.

### **4.6 Osprey Platform Proposal for Notch Pond and UBL**

A walk is being planned for Upper Bolton Lake next Saturday or the following Saturday in the Atlantic White Cedar Forest to look for a dead cedar tree about 18 feet long to use as a pole for the platform. P. Van Dine is still looking into distance requirements for the platform on Notch Pond.

Patrick Comins is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society. They have a job opening for a coordinator for the Osprey Nation Project. The Connecticut Audubon Society also hosts several “Osprey cams”. See <https://www.ctaudubon.org/osprey-nation-map-data/>

R. Parlee will be discussing this at the next BLWCA meeting on February 10, 2021.

## **5.0 New Business**

### **5.1 Results of Freja Work Party on January 9, 2021 and Planning for February 13, 2021**

A. Bicknell, J. Laughman and R. Parlee formed the work party on January 9th. A. Bicknell reported that a lot of Autumn Olive was cut down although the roots were not removed. There was very little trash on the trail.

The next work party is planned for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 13, 2021. Participants will meet at the Bolton commuter lot. Trail monitoring will be performed.

### **5.2 Tulip Tree Trail in Bolton Notch State Park**

M. Rivers noted that he and R. Parlee did a very thorough walk on the Tulip Tree Trail. There were a number of dead black oak trees due to gypsy moth damage. R. Parlee has mentioned the hazards to the State. The trail is marked as hazardous due to the number of dead and damaged trees. The CT DEEP has put up warning signs which R. Parlee shared a photo of. J. Laughman asked if posting the signs releases the State from liability. The State typically does not want to close trails.

M. Rivers thinks that the trail should be shut down for safety reasons. P. Van Dine and A. Bicknell think that the warning signs are a good first start.

The Bolton BCC originally partnered with the Vernon BCC to create this trail in Bolton Notch State Park in Vernon. R. Parlee will contact Ryan Goad, Chair of the Vernon Conservation Commission to get his perspective.

### **5.3 Vernal Pools Day on March 27, 2021**

Discussion ensued as to whether or not this should be held. Last year, Ed Pawlak had offered to join the walk. P. Van Dine said that with the interest of possible development behind the Town Hall, perhaps that location should be explored. Barbara Kelly and Gwen Marrion are familiar with the vernal pool behind the Town Hall.

### **5.4 Trails Day 2021**

This is tentatively planned for June on the Nathan Hale Greenway. The Connecticut Forest and Parks Association is holding a workshop in mid February on how to plan a trails day hike. R. Parlee is planning to participate.

### **5.5 Notch Pond Water Testing and Osprey Platform Planning**

Discussed above.

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

The SCT meeting scheduled for January 27, 2021 was cancelled.

The FBL has been testing light depth and temperatures in Lower Bolton Lake. Testing will be done in Middle Bolton Lake this summer. They are waiting for the CT DEEP to release Hillary Kenyon Garovoy's draft of the watershed management plan. There is no timeframe. The plans to apply for a 319 grant are tentative. They may be able to complete a plan without using 319 funds.

There is a preliminary plan for the Upper Bolton Lake dam but it has not been put out to bid yet. The dam is part of the watershed and the four town alliance. There has not been a response to their concerns about the dam elevation level. Without having a complete understanding of optimal water levels it could impact the rare Atlantic White Cedar Forest.

J. Laughman reported that she called the manager of the Atlantic White Cedar Park on Cape Cod who said that their swamp has a fluctuation where the water comes two feet up on the trees and goes as low as total exposure. There is also red maple in their swamp. The cedars don't respond negatively to fluctuations in the water and fluctuation seems to be normal with no adverse impact. She has calls in to Eric Dunnack and Doctor Steven Smith to get additional information. These Atlantic White Cedar Swamps are located from Maine to the Carolinas. R. Parlee reminded members that a healthy stand of Atlantic White Cedar was impacted from flooding at the Goodwin State Forest and another in Willimantic.

### **6.0 Correspondence:**

J. Laughman email about Atlantic White Cedar with links

CT Audubon Society coordinator position

Osprey platform information

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

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **8.0 Adjournment**

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the virtual meeting at 9:15 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 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.

