

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

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

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

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

1.2 Minutes Review of February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting

Under 5.6, third paragraph

Correct “There is also red maple in their swamp.” To “There is also red maple in the swamp.”

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

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Financial Report

R. Parlee shared the financial report provided by P. Van Dine. R. Parlee is awaiting a response from the Town Hall for an accounting of remaining calendars there and any funds they have received from calendars sold. The library has one calendar left that will be archived and they have \$10.00 in cash from a calendar sale.

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3.1 Seedling Order & Photo Contest Prizes

There will be a first, second and third prize in each of the four photo categories.

1st prize will be:

One Eastern Redbud (2 gal)
One Flowering Dogwood “Ch. Princess” (5 gal)
One Franklinia “Wintonberry” (2 gal)
One Sourwood (3 gal)

2nd prize will be comprised of four Rhododendrons “Catawbiense Album” (2 gal)

3rd prize will be:

One Silky Dogwood (2 gal)
One Sweet Pepperbush “Ruby Spice” (2 gal)
One Sweetspire “Henry’s Garnet” (2 gal)
One Red Chokeberry “Brilliantissima” (2 gal)

In addition, one bundle of Balsam Fir bare-root evergreen tree seedlings and three bags of Collins compost will be purchased. The seedlings will be used for giveaways at various events during the year. J. Laughman has containers that can be used to pot the seedlings.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up to \$475.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for the purchase of plants and compost from the NCCD plant sale. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Fairy House Building Contest Prizes

The Fairy House Building Contest will be held on Earth Day. There will be a limit of ten participants with pre-registration required. Masks and social distancing will be required.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up to \$75.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase prizes for the contest. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Prizes can be purchased from a location of B. Cataldo’s choice. Earth Day T-Shirts can also be used as prizes either for the children participating or perhaps for their parents.

3.3 Earth Day T-shirts, Composters and Hobos/Tidbit

There are 21 Earth Day 50 T-shirts in various sizes remaining from 2020.

There are 2 composters that can be sold.

P. Van Dine shared an inventory of hobos and the tidbit. There is currently one hobo in Railroad Brook and one in Freja Park Brook. P. Van Dine will coordinate the planned installation of two more hobos on March 23, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. with R. Parlee and M. Rivers. Peter will have the 2 hobos ready to go the day before.

4.0 Continuing Business

4.1 Charter Revision

R. Parlee spoke regarding the proposed changes to the Charter. The change of greatest concern to the BCC is the proposed combination of the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission. The positions on the combined commission would be appointed instead of elected. He proposes that the BCC takes a stand in opposition to the combination of those two commissions.

P. Van Dine made a motion to have R. Parlee draft a letter in opposition of the combinations of the two commissions. This letter would be reviewed by the BCC members and would then be forwarded to the Charter Revision Commission and the Board of Selectmen. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Parlee also has supporting documents that he wants to include with the letter. CACIWC has also weighed in opposition to the combining of the two commissions.

4.2 20th Annual Photo Contest Outreach

The Photo Contest flyer has been posted on the Town of Bolton website. R. Parlee will compose a short paragraph about the photo contest to be published in the Journal Inquirer and the Hartford Courant. B. Cataldo will print up some flyers that can be handed out at Vernal Pools Day and Earth Day.

4.3 Groundwater Resource Inventory

R. Parlee noted that he had nothing new to report this month. Sodium testing has increased for private wells related to the salt being used on the roads. Free sodium test kits are available through the Izaak Walton League of America. Get your free Winter Salt Watch test kit here.

<https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch>

4.4 Volunteer Monitoring Initiative

P. Van Dine and R. Parlee spoke with each other today about the possibility of placing a hobo between Upper and Middle Bolton Lake dam. P. Van Dine noted that it would be important because they do not have temperature records of that area. P. Van Dine proposes installing the hobo above the kayak launch.

4.5 Monthly Park Work Parties

The last scheduled work day was snowy. A. Bicknell and R. Parlee met and hiked to the Atlantic Cedar Swamp. A. Bicknell reported that it was a fascinating hike despite the steep terrain and tangled brush. The use of snow shoes combined with many dead falls and collapsing ice made it challenging. The Carlo property is not the best way access the swamp. They kept falling in through ice with air underneath, so they changed their route up to a ridge lookout where they followed bobcat tracks. R. Parlee said they measured two trees that were only slightly smaller than the champion by a half inch and one inch.

The March work party is scheduled for March 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Herrick Park. There is a tree that needs to be measured. A clinometer can be used to measure the height of the tree.

5.0 New Business

5.1 MS4 Annual Stormwater Report

P. Van Dine briefly explained the report. It is a municipal storm water report that needs to be done every year. Wade Thomas is the engineer who produced the report. The report is on the Town website and will be open for public review until March 31, 2021.

P. Van Dine made a motion that he write a letter to the engineer and the administration of Bolton concerning any comments that the BCC has. R. Parlee as Chairman of the BCC will review the letter before submitting to the above mentioned parties. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Parlee and P. Van Dine have reviewed copies of Hillary Kenyon Garovoy's draft lake management plan and she brings up projects that should be looked at right away. The BLWCA and FBL will also comment on the contents of the report.

5.2 Vernal Pools Day (3/27), Earth Day (4/24), Trails Day (6/5)

R. Parlee noted that Vernal Pools Day is an annual event. The vernal pool in Bolton Notch State Park is easily accessible. Ed Pawlak has agreed to lead the walk. Salamander eggs have been found in the past and some egg masses sparkle like pearls. The walk will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Participants will meet at the Tunnel Parking Lot.

CAWS (Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists) is conducting a study to research vernal pools around the state. According to CAWS, any data collected on Vernal Pools will not be released without the permission of CAWS.

Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Last year a Nature Blitz was planned but cancelled due to COVID 19. This year, the fairy house building contest will be held and maybe a tree planting ceremony and a short hike. Registration will be required and limited to 10 participants. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

Trails Day will be held on June 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Up to 15 people will be allowed per group. Registration will be required. Masks and social distancing will apply. The Connecticut Forest and Parks Association is coordinating this day. R. Parlee needs to share the BCC info with them to get info included in their booklet. Nathan Hale Greenway will be the location. R. Parlee will invite some guest speakers possibly including Matt Largess.

5.3 Notch Pond Water Testing and Osprey Platform Planning

P. Van Dine noted that water testing can't be done unless you have an account set up with Phoenix Labs. He suggests that the BCC get an account set up with them. He will discuss the specifics of this with Joshua Kelly.

There are two old telephone poles in the area that could potentially be used to support the osprey platform. This will be readdressed next month.

5.4 Annual Report for FY 19-20

R. Parlee shared the Annual Report via Email with the BCC members. He encourages the Commission members to review the report. The commission members thanked R. Parlee for his excellent work in preparing the report. A. Bicknell moved to accept the annual report as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5.5 SCT, FBL and BLWCA Reports

The SCT has not met recently.

P. Van Dine reported that FBL is thinking of having a Zoom spring forum. Planning is still very preliminary and there has been no firm date set.

Both the FBL and the BLWCA have been discussing the draft watershed management plan written by Hillary Kenyon Garovoy. The report is well organized and well done. Several projects have been proposed. Many projects are associated with storm water. P. Van Dine noted that modeling procedures should be included in the management plan. Total maximum daily load is one modeling procedure to track and keep records of on an annual basis. Areas with erosion issues including Rosedale Beach are mentioned in the report. R. Parlee thought that detailed information regarding upper Bolton Lake was missing in the management plan. P. Van Dine said that it was only mentioned as an important nutrient sink.

At the last BLWCA meeting R. Parlee reported that Eric Thomas from CTDEEP spoke regarding the proposed dam. Michael Carlo, a landowner, questioned the proposed height and elevation of the dam. Mr. Thomas thought they would keep it at the same level as Middle Bolton Lake. Ryan Goad, Vernon CC Chari has put together a Google drive with all of the documents of the alliance.

6.0 Correspondence:

6.1 Short and Sweet video supporting old growth forests

<https://www.facebook.com/oldgrowthforestnetwork/videos/338154296754072>

R. Parlee suggested that the BCC members watch this video at their convenience.

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

B. Cataldo made a motion to adjourn the virtual meeting at 9:24 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 5, 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.

Originals Printed on 100% Recycled Paper – Earth Day and Every Day

