

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Jean Laughman, Matthew Rivers and Peter Van Dine (joined the meeting at 7:09 p.m.)

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

R. Parlee shared that an ad hoc work group is being utilized by the Charter Revision Commission and this can replace the use of subcommittees.

1.2 Minutes Review of March 1, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

2.0 Public Comment: None

3.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine presented the financial report. A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the report as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3.1 Order Ream of 100% Recycled Paper

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate up to \$65.00 from the Office Supply account for the purchase of a case (10 reams) of 100% recycled paper from Staples. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Seedling Pick-up on 4/23 at NCCD

R. Parlee is volunteering his time at the NCCD on April 23, 2021, and will be able to pick up the seedlings with P. Van Dine's help. J. Laughman noted that the tree seedlings will need to be planted very quickly after pickup.

3.3 Fairy House Building Contest Prizes

B. Cataldo will be purchasing prizes. Up to \$75.00 was appropriated for this purpose at the March 1, 2021, meeting.

3.4 Earth Day T-Shirts, Composters and Hobos/Tidbit

There are several 50 year anniversary Earth Day T-shirts left from last year and two composters.

4.0 Continuing Business

4.1 Charter Revision

P. Van Dine attended the virtual Public Hearing on the Charter Revision. The BCC submitted a letter as public testimony. CACIWC and a CTDEEP Wetlands Official, Darcy Winther also added input to the letter.

P. Van Dine noted that the combination of P&Z and Inland Wetlands was not the focus of the meeting. The main concern was regarding the changes to the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen.

4.2 20th Annual Photo Contest Outreach

R. Parlee noted that the deadline is May 10, 2021, for the 20th annual contest. The promotional flyer will be posted on the Everything Bolton Facebook page. R. Parlee also passed out flyers at Vernal Pools Day.

4.3 Results of Eighth Annual Vernal Pools Day (3/27)

R. Parlee shared a collage of pictures from Vernal Pools Day. There was good participation and there were many questions from the public. Egg masses were found from wood frogs and spotted salamanders and fairy shrimp were also found. A picture of an egg mass was uploaded to the UCONN Amphibian Tracker website.

A tidbit was placed in the deepest section of the vernal pool. The data from the tidbit will be uploaded in the driest time of the year, probably August.

4.4 Groundwater Resource Inventory-Sodium Testing, Notch Pond, etc.

R. Parlee and J. Laughman have been using the sodium testing kits. J. Laughman used the kits at the sites of all the hobos. Two sites were below 30 parts per million and one was in the forties. The highest sodium concentration (64 parts per million) was from Railroad Brook near the Charter Oak Greenway.

R. Parlee would like to test the sodium levels around the DOT garage, Notch Pond and near Freja Park.

P. Van Dine mentioned that if the Town still has an account with Phoenix Labs perhaps Notch Pond can be tested. P. Van Dine made a motion to ask if the Town has an account with Phoenix Labs that the BCC can take advantage of or if the BCC can set up an account if none exists. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4.4 Volunteer Monitoring Initiative-Hobos in Place-Tidbit in Vernal Pool

P. Van Dine noted that there is now a tidbit in the vernal pool at Bolton Notch State Park. There are also tidbits in Bolton Pond Brook, Railroad Brook, Baker Brook, French Brook and Freja Park Brook.

4.5 Monthly Park Work Party in Freja Park (4/10)-Osprey Pole GPS Coordinates

The monthly work party will be held at Freja Park at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2021. Participants will meet at the commuter lot and will bring trash bags.

R. Parlee suggested that the Nathan Hale Greenway be walked on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Participants will meet at parking area between Munson's and Bolton Collision Repair.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Graffiti in Bolton Notch State Park

A. Bicknell noted that painting on the rocks has gotten out of control. In places, the paint is over an inch thick and is very unsafe to walk on. Some of the graffiti is graphic and trees are also being painted. The tunnel has been painted and there is painting at the cave. Additionally, over thirty trees have been illegally flagged for removal to allow for a better view from the highway of the flag that is painted on the rocks.

R. Parlee spoke with Dave Buckley of CTDEEP regarding this matter. He is trying to work with the people who are involved. This is a State Park and people may be unaware that they are destroying public property. There is also a safety concern as people may be distracted by the flag while driving on Route 384.

5.2 Connecting Hop River Trail with Risley Property

R. Parlee spoke with Michael Carlo who is a drone pilot. Mr. Carlo invited R. Parlee to Box Mountain to fly drones from the summit. They spoke with a land owner who is interested in making the connection of trails over Box Mountain. Ann Letendre, a Vernon Town Council member is interested in furthering this plan as is Doug MacGilvery of the MLCT.

5.3 MS4 Annual Stormwater Report Comments

P. Van Dine noted that the problem with the MS4 report is that it is non-specific. The storm drains are not identified. GIS mapping is proposed. The report is still in draft form with a final report in the works. Bolton would benefit from a more detailed and site specific approach to storm water control.

5.4 Earth Day (4/24), Kids to Park Day (5/15), Trails Day (6/5)

The Earth Day celebration will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. starting in the commuter lot with a hike into Freja Park and then participants will assemble at the benches for the annual fairy house building contest. A potted sapling will be planted. The Earth Day flag will be flown at the pond. Each participant will be able to receive an Earth Day T-Shirt. This information will be published in the Bolton Bulletin, on the Everything Bolton Facebook page, the Hartford Courant and the Journal Inquirer.

The BCC has been invited to attend Kids to Park Day at Herrick Park at 10:00 a.m. on May 15, 2021.

Trails Day will be held on June 5, 2021. R. Parlee invited Matt Largess for a hike on the Nathan Hale Greenway. Matt, who is a nationally known arborist will identify healthy old-growth trees. The website link should go live this week (See **6.4**).

5.5 SCT, FBL and BLWCA Reports

R. Parlee noted that SCT has not met this year.

P. Van Dine reported regarding the FBL. The draft of the watershed management plan is still in the hands of the DEEP. Lake monitoring will begin this month. .

The next meeting date for the BLWCA has not been set.

Hillary Kenyon Garovoy is interested in using a drone to monitor Upper Bolton Lake.

5.6 Library Showcase

A. Bicknell reported that the BCC had initially signed up for March but due to COVID the date had to be postponed. The BCC will now populate the showcase in May. The focus will be invasive species. There will be many examples of invasive species available at that time.

A. Bicknell proposed pressing and drying plant samples for display. P. Van Dine also suggested highlighting the effects of damage done by Emerald Ash Borers.

B. Cataldo may have some photographs for display.

If BCC members have species that they would like to have displayed, J. Laughman suggested forwarding that information to her or A. Bicknell by April 26, 2021.

R. Parlee suggested meeting on Friday, April 30, 2021, to set up the display.

6.0 Correspondence:

6.1 Email from Pawlak

R. Parlee received an Email from Ed Pawlak asking if the BCC wants to monitor areas in Bolton that may have salamander crossings. The idea would be to help the salamanders safely cross the road. This is a link to amphibian crossing programs in the Northeast:

<https://harriscenter.org/programs-and-education/citizen-science/salamander-crossing-brigades/other-crossing-brigade-programs>

6.2 Event Participation Tracking

R. Parlee would like to compile a database of event participants that can be used to notify them of future events. R. Parlee will check with B. Cataldo to see what information she has.

6.3 National Pollinators Month in June

Email received from Kyleen Mike, Recreation Director regarding having a local beekeeper speak about bees and asking if the BCC would be interested in speaking about birds and butterflies as pollinators.

6.4 BCC Trails Day Link:

<https://www.ctwoodlands.org/ct-trails-weekend/events-2021/bolton-hike-record-6410>

A. Bicknell saw eagles flying from the east at dusk carrying nesting material. J. Laughman noted that eagles have also been spotted near Big Y in Manchester.

7.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

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

8.0 Adjournment

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the virtual meeting at 9:10 p.m. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 3, 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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