

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 8, 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 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting

B. Cataldo made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed 3:0:2. A. Bicknell and P. Van Dine abstained.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 Hobo/Tidbit Inventory

P. Van Dine noted that there are six Hobos in place. There is one each at Railroad Brook, Baker Brook, French Brook and Bolton Pond Brook. In addition, one is in place near the brook that flows through BNSP near Freja Park and one is at Upper Bolton Lake on the west shore near Hatch Hill Road.

One Hobo is in storage and is not deployed and delivery is pending on 2 additional Hobos.

A Tidbit is in place at the vernal pool in BNSP.

R. Parlee noted that 2 Hobos will be kept out of circulation and will be used when swapping out other Hobos.

The current retail price for a Shuttle is approximately \$100.00 and the base station retail price is approximately \$200.00.

P. Van Dine suggested additional stream temperature monitoring near Middle Dam and in the vicinity of the kiosk at Freja Park.

4.2 Annual Memberships

P. Van Dine suggested contacting the Chair of the Inland Wetlands Commission to agree to send letters from the BCC and the Inland Wetlands Commission to the Finance Department to agree to a combined membership to CACIWC.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$75.00 from the Dues and Fees Account in one request combined with Inland Wetlands Commission to join CACIWC as a Sustaining member. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Rod attended the mid-year CACIWC conference. He thought that the recycling workshop was particularly impressive. The law now enables towns to enforce recycling. Fines can be imposed for noncompliance. Contaminated recycling is a continuing problem. People are not recycling the right products and containers are not clean.

Ed Pawlak spoke at the conference and mentioned the BCC monitoring the temperature of the vernal pool in BNSP.

Decisions on other memberships (Bolton Land Trust, FBL and the CT Land Conservation Council, etc.) were tabled until the budget is passed.

4.3 Office Account Expenditures for Library Showcase

A. Bicknell reported that the foam board was donated by J. Laughman. The printing was done by B. Cataldo using heavy stock paper and special inks. B. Cataldo will submit an accounting of materials used. A final decision of appropriation of funds will be made when the budget is approved.

5.0 Continuing Business

5.1 Freja Workparty

R. Parlee noted that the Autumn Olive in Freja Park is advancing to the extent that the trails are compromised. A work party is scheduled for noon on Saturday July 10, 2021, weather permitting. Work needs to be done from the benches back using the Puller Bears.

It will be at least two years before the mugwort can be eradicated and replaced with goldenrod.

5.2 Groundwater Resource Inventory – Sodium Testing, Notch Pond, etc.

R. Parlee proposed launching kayaks or canoes from the east side of Notch Pond to collect water samples. This is tentatively planned for Saturday, July 24, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. P. Van Dine suggested testing at least once a month, ideally shortly after a storm.

Testing is pending laboratory availability.

5.3 Library Showcase Update – “Invasive Species: Silent; Creeping and Taking Over!”

R. Parlee shared a photo of the display. A. Bicknell and J. Laughman put together a very cohesive display that was well put together. Invasive plants as well as insects were included. Recommended herbicides and manual removal of invasives were included. There is also a separate panel on aggressive native but non-invasive plants such as Virginia Creeper and Poison Ivy. Hand outs are available at the checkout spot on the circulation desk.

The definition of invasive species was inadvertently excluded from the display but will be added this week.

J. Laughman spent approximately four hours preparing materials for the display. A. Bicknell and J. Laughman were at the library for four hours preparing the showcase.

P. Van Dine suggested making a slide show of the pictures and the related information that could be shared on the Town website. J. Laughman also suggested using Power Point.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Election of Officers

Rod suggested having a volunteer coordinator track people who attend many of the BCC events and reach out to them via Email to gauge their interest in joining the BCC or helping at a work party.

B. Cataldo has lists of people who have attended events. B. Cataldo offered to take on this responsibility if she is given direction. J. Laughman offered to show her how to use Excel to manage the list. If the list is made available on Google Docs, anyone could amend it.

R. Parlee made a motion to nominate and elect B. Cataldo as a Volunteer Coordinator. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. J. Laughman abstained.

J. Laughman made a motion to nominate P. Van Dine as Treasurer. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

J. Laughman made a motion to elect P. Van Dine as Treasurer. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

J. Laughman made a motion to nominate P. Van Dine as Vice Chairman. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

J. Laughman made a motion to elect P. Van Dine as Vice Chairman. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

P. Van Dine made a motion to nominate R. Parlee as Chairman. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. R. Parlee abstained.

P. Van Dine made a motion to elect R. Parlee as Chairman. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. R. Parlee abstained.

P. Van Dine made a motion that the clerk be empowered to make any changes in the wording of the nomination and elections of the officers in order to make them appropriate for the Town Clerk. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1.

6.2 2022 Calendar Planning

P. Van Dine made the suggestion that although the BCC members cannot participate in the photo contest they should be able to submit photos for the calendar. R. Parlee said that the purpose of the calendar is to showcase photos that were submitted in the photo contest and that people who enter the contest are excited about the possibility of their photos being included in the calendar. B. Cataldo said that it can be difficult to find photos that are suitable for each season. P. Van

Dine noted that the category of Green Living does not include pictures of stream monitoring, pulling of invasive plants, etc.

R. Parlee noted that the collage is used as a showcase for BCC photos. P. Van Dine suggested limiting the number of pictures in the collage to make them bigger. B. Cataldo suggested that in the months where the BCC holds events, she could incorporate a small photo of that event, perhaps along the borders of the calendar page. R. Parlee suggested that B. Cataldo be empowered to use her discretion on what photos to use. B. Cataldo will begin putting together a draft of the calendar for possible discussion in August.

6.3 Laboratory Analysis Account Update

P. Van Dine reported that the town had an account with Phoenix Laboratories at one time. He will check with Barbara Kelly to see what information she has regarding this. Water samples could be tested for just about any chemical you can think of. Sample containers would be provided. In the interim, P. Van Dine will check on the feasibility of using the FBL account and reimbursing them for testing costs.

Dissolved oxygen can be tested with the FBL probes. More experience is needed for this.

6.4 FBL and BLWCA Report

P. Van Dine reported that the FBL has been working on increasing membership. They are a little short this year. They are trying to set up a program to beautify waterfronts and maintain the health of the lake. Prizes may be awarded for participants.

The FBL are planning to set up watershed signs on the roads as you enter the watershed areas (within 20-30 feet of the watershed area is acceptable). This was discussed at the July BOS meeting.

P. Van Dine reported that twice a month from May through October water samples are taken for phosphorus testing on the upper and bottom layers of the lake. The 2020 report has not been received. The last monitoring showed healthy results. B. Cataldo asked how the large amount of rain we have received would affect results. P. Van Dine said the rain is beneficial as it dilutes the amount of phosphorus.

R. Parlee reported that the BLWCA met last month but they have not received a response from Tolland regarding the Bolton Lake wetlands upland review. It is a staffing issue as personal has changed and they are busy with other matters. R. Parlee will follow up asking for a response. The watershed management plan was paid for by the Town of Bolton using state funding (STEAP) and was sent to the CTDEEP for comments. In May, the plan was sent back to the consultant. P. Van Dine heard that Hillary Kenyon Garovoy has only one day a month for paperwork. Her time is taken up with actual monitoring. She may not be able to look at the plan until the fall. Also, the dam construction appears to be on schedule for this fall.

P. Van Dine noted that the water level in Upper Lake was more than a foot higher than Middle Lake due to beaver activity. Vernon Public Works is taking a different approach on beaver

control. The goal is to keep the levels of the Lakes even. He feels that the current foot level higher is not good for the Atlantic White Cedar as they need a little time to dry out.

7.0 Correspondence

Letter from Gwen Marrion dated June 2021. The BLT will accept Debbie Livingston as their president. Ms. Marrion will remain active on the BLT. Rod praised Ms. Marrion for her dedication to the BLT for many years.

Email from Kathy McCavanagh regarding hybrid meeting processes. Training will be needed. Meetings will be held live and virtual using Zoom and Owl technology.

General Permit information for the Installation of the Osprey Platform and Perch Pole. Rod will contact Brian Hess from the CTDEEP for more information.

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

9.0 Adjournment

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 2, 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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