

## BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, October 3, 2022, 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 7:06 p.m.

### **2.0 Minutes Review of September 6, 2022 Regular Meeting**

R. Parlee noted that the January meeting will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 5:0:0.

### **3.0 Public Comment:** None

### **4.0 Financial Report**

R. Parlee shared the financial report online.

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the Treasurers financial report as submitted. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

A conductivity monitor was purchased upon unanimous Email agreement from the BCC members. P. Van Dine picked it up at the Town Hall today.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$190.42 from the Conservation Activity Fund for the purchase of the conductivity monitor. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

P. Van Dine will calibrate the meter before its use.

#### **4.1 2<sup>nd</sup> Spray Paint Purchase with new England Hardware Account – BOS Acct**

R. Parlee and M. Rivers purchased spray paint on September 9, 2022, to cover the white illegal spray paint on trees in Freja Park. The work party took approximately two hours. This was the second time this year that the BCC had to cover illegal blazes.

#### **4.2 Apples and Storage Bins Reimbursement**

R. Parlee purchased apples for the Heritage Farm event. He is not requesting reimbursement as he was able to use the excess apples.

The two old storage bins had deteriorated to a point where they were unusable. R. Parlee purchased two storage bins at Costco for a total cost of \$21.98. One will be used for RBV supplies and the other will be used to store waders and gloves.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$21.98 from the Office Supplies account for the purchase of two storage bins. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

#### **4.3 Pizza Appropriation for RBV**

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$50.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for the purchase of pizza for the RBV event. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 5:0:0.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Peak Foliage Hike on Mohegan Trail on Sunday, October 16, 2022**

R. Parlee suggested a start time of 1:00 p.m. Improvements that are being made on the trail will be highlighted. A large, heavy duty water bar has been installed.

#### **5.2 Bolton Greater Together Community Fund Application**

R. Parlee noted that the purchase of composters using the grant money had been previously suggested. The cost of the composters would be \$1,360.00 (20 at \$68.00 each) and \$720.00 for rain barrels (10 at \$72.00 each). The purchase would be contingent upon being able to use the Town Hall for storage. There was a limited number of grant applications received in September. The deadline has been extended until the end of October.

P. Van Dine and J. Laughman noted that the items would need to be marketed and someone would have to be responsible for selling and delivering the items. It took two years to sell the last lot of twenty composters. R. Parlee said that people could come by to retrieve items at the Town Hall before the monthly meetings. P. Van Dine suggested marketing through the Bolton Bulletin or Everything Bolton.

R. Parlee offered to complete the grant application with potential help from J. Laughman and P. Van Dine. A. Bicknell asked if there will be a composting program at the library. J. Laughman had suggested getting a master composter from UCONN to run the program. Trish from the library was going to contact someone at the UCONN soil lab. A. Bicknell said that would be a perfect opportunity to sell composters at that event. P. Van Dine said a mention should be made on the grant application that a composting presentation will be held at the Bentley Memorial Library. J. Laughman and P. Van Dine suggested the purchase of composters only, no rain barrels as they won't take up as much storage space.

P. Van Dine made a motion to have R. Parlee fill out the grant application to purchase a pallet of composters provided there is storage at Town Hall and the library agrees to schedule a program on composting, where it would be noted that composters would be for sale. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion failed 2:2:1. The motion is tabled.

A. Bicknell made a motion for R. Parlee to fill out the grant application before October 31, 2022, with an observation that the library has considered in the past to hold a program on composting and they may do so in the future. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed 3:1:1 with P. Van Dine opposed and J. Laughman abstaining.

J. Laughman mentioned that when the BCC originally agreed to apply for the grant to purchase composters and resell them, there was nothing mentioned about a composting event at the library. Why are we mentioning it now? P. Van Dine replied that part of the planning of buying items to resell is how they are going to be marketed. He feels that the application is strengthened significantly by noting that there will be a program at the library.

A. Bicknell will contact the library about holding a composting program.

The town has to approve the grant application.

### **5.3 Freja Park Gate**

R. Parlee emailed John Butrymovich about replacing the gate. R. Parlee saw a suitable gate at Tractor Supply. The town is willing to pay for it and install it. Mr. Butrymovich will see if the town has an account at Tractor Supply.

### **5.4 Photo Release Form for BCC Events Update**

R. Parlee is waiting to hear from Jim Rupert for approval. J. Rupert thinks the town already has a form. R. Parlee is waiting for clarification.

J. Laughman and R. Parlee attended Heritage Farm Day. They handed out apples and held a recycling challenge. Many people stopped at the display.

### **5.5 RBV on 10/23 at Herrick Park Lodge**

The lodge is reserved from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. P. Van Dine will stay at the lodge while the field work is being performed. P. Van Dine suggested the use of three sample bottles to bring back water from three locations and do the testing at the lodge. The Giglios and Scorsos need to be contacted.

### **5.6 Stream Temperature Monitoring Update**

R. Parlee noted that some streams have run dry. P. Van Dine noted that more monitoring can be done at the RBV event on October 23, 2022. B. Cataldo wondered if there will be water flowing in the streams and if there will be macro invertebrates to capture for the RBV.

R. Parlee suggested exploring some different locations for 2023. There has not been any new training from the CTDEEP on macro invertebrate identification or protocol and no additional people are being recruited to perform RBV assessments.

### **5.7 2023 Calendar Planning & Photo Contest Flyer**

B. Cataldo reported that the calendar is set up with the dates. It just needs to be put together and the advertisers need to be contacted. B. Cataldo sent the cover page to R. Parlee for his review.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund pay Hedges and Hedges to print the 2022-2023 BCC calendars. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed 5:0:0.

B. Cataldo will obtain a written estimate from Hedges and Hedges for the printing of 120 calendars and the cost of printing additional lots of 20 calendars. She will forward that information to P. Van Dine.

P. Van Dine suggested contacting new businesses such as Dollar General, the Mobil Station and the barbershop for ads. They could also be calendar sale locations. B. Cataldo agreed but noted that it would add another page to the calendar. B. Cataldo will send out a letter to potential advertisers. R. Parlee will send a draft of his calendar letter to J. Laughman and P. Van Dine for review. A donation page will be included again this year.

B. Cataldo does not have a definitive date to send the calendar to the printer. R. Parlee suggested November 1, 2022, could be a potential deadline. B. Cataldo agreed.

The photo contest flyer will be posted on the Town website.

In 2021, 120 calendars were purchased. 96 were sold. Most of the remaining calendars were given to advertisers and special guests at events.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Town Park Ordinances and Trail Cams Purchase**

R. Parlee asked Jim Rupert about the town park ordinances. The Town Clerk's office is updating the ordinances. There is currently a \$25.00 fine for infractions. Should the ordinances be posted on the trail kiosks? The administrative officer and the town attorney are finding out if signs need to be posted indicating that trail cameras are in place. The purchase of the trail cameras is on hold until a decision is made. If the Resident Trooper enforces the town ordinances, does he know what the ordinances are, how the fees would be collected and where the funds would go?

### **6.2 Mohegan Trail Project & BNSP Kiosk**

Two work parties will be held in October on the Mohegan Trail to add more water bars. The kiosk should note BNSP. A member of The Hop River Alliance apologized for removing the stakes around the turtle egg laying area.

### **6.3 POCD Section #10 on Protect Water Resource Plan "Policy and Actions Step"**

R. Parlee noted that the BCC has talked about this for a few months. P. Van Dine has worked on the plan but it is still in draft form. The plan will be ready for review at the November BCC meeting.

P. Van Dine noted that there are other items in the POCD where the BCC is noted as a partner.

#### **6.4 Modification of Draw Down Policy for Bolton Lake**

P. Van Dine has been working on this. FBL held a meeting and submitted a draft letter to Jim Rupert and Vernon Parks and Recreation Director Marty Sitler. They are the people who would have to sign the letter giving an outline as to what they would like to see as a solution. The FBL and the watershed alliance should work together with CTDEEP. P. Van Dine will be monitoring this. R. Parlee and P. Van Dine talked about the sustainable water level in Upper Bolton Lake around the Atlantic White Cedar. Alicia Tyson from UCONN Extension was supposed to take a look at this. J. Laughman does not know of any other contacts at UCONN who would be involved with lake ecology. She noted that the Natural Resources Department could be contacted.

#### **6.4 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, BLT, CACIWC and Trails Committee Reports**

**FBL-** P. Van Dine noted that Hillary Kenyon Garoway will be holding a forum at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the lodge at Newhoca Park in Vernon. The FBL meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. that evening.

**BLWCA-** The next in-person meeting will be held at the NCCD (North Central Conservation District) on October 12, 2022. Alicia Tyson will talk about sustainable watershed management. P. Van Dine will come up with an open space map outlining watershed space in Bolton, Coventry, Tolland and Vernon.

**SRWP-** Awaiting a report from Matt Rivers. A RBV will not be conducted on the Blackledge River as someone else is doing it.

**BLT-R.** Parlee received a set of minutes from the last meeting. Debbie Livingston responded to questions about mountain biking in Freja Park. The resident trooper now uses a mountain bike and patrols with it on the Hop River Greenway.

**CACIWC-A.** Bicknell, J. Laughman, R. Parlee and M. Rivers plan to attend the meeting on October 29, 2022. The cost per person is \$70.00.

A. Bicknell made a motion to allocate up to \$280.00 to be appropriated at the discretion of the Treasurer for the account allocation for attendance at the CACIWC annual meeting. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The members should attend different workshops. Workshops of interest include Vernal Pools, Talking Trash, Pollinators, 2022 Wetlands Law and Rivers and Watercourses.

The BCC will table with a recycling challenge and stream monitoring hardware and graphs.

**Trails Committee-** They are not meeting. There is a historic spring near the vernal pool on the Nathan Hale Greenway. R. Parlee will attempt to get more information on it.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

Prices of compost bins and rain barrels from the NRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association)

Parks or Recreation Ordinances

Grant Application Document

Invoice for the purchase of the EXstick II Conductivity Meter

Conductivity Meter Product Data Sheet

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

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

## **9.0 Adjournment**

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Brand,

*Leslie J. Brand*

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.

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### **Financial Action items**

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P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$21.98 from the Office Supplies account for the purchase of two storage bins. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$50.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for the purchase of pizza for the RBV event. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 5:0:0.

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A. Bicknell made a motion to allocate up to \$280.00 to be appropriated at the discretion of the Treasurer for the account allocation for attendance at the CACIWC annual meeting. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.