

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Brenda Cataldo (joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m.), Peter Van Dine and Alternate Matt Rivers (seated for Jean Laughman-left the meeting at 9:07 p.m.)

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of March 7, 2022 Regular Meeting

Under 5.3 Outreach- In the second sentence of the first paragraph, add A. Bicknell to the attendees at the recycling presentation

And in the last paragraph, change notebook to event advertisement.

A. Bicknell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

R. Parlee shared the Financial Report online.

M. Rivers moved to accept the Financial Report as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine suggested adding a list of any motions requiring financial action to the end of the minutes.

R. Parlee and P. Van Dine are scheduled to have a meeting at 3:00 on Wednesday with Jim Rupert and Jill Collins to discuss the approval and execution of BCC expenditures and the balancing of accounts.

4.1 Calendar Revenue Received including Donations

P. Van Dine noted that 95 calendars have been sold and \$95.00 was received in donations. There was a net profit of \$844.00.

4.2 Request for Transfer

P. Van Dine noted that he signed documents for a transfer of \$140.00 from the Professional Education and Training account to the Office Supplies account.

4.3 Status of Brochure “Importance of Dead Wood”

B. Cataldo will send R. Parlee the updated brochure. 150 copies are planned to be printed.

4.4 NCCD Seedlings Pick Up on April 22 and Purchase Order

A. Bicknell moved to approve a purchase order request for \$323.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase trees/plants from the NCCD. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The plants will be picked up on Friday, April 22, 2022.

5.0 Continuing Business

5.1 Photo Contest Promo and Prizes

The contest deadline is May 9, 2022. R. Parlee will post the contest information on social media. Based on a suggestion from A. Bicknell, R. Parlee will meet with A. Bicknell early next week to hang photo contest flyers at kiosks in the parks.

Prizes are as follows*:

a) Examples of Green Living & Farming

1st Place – TREE: White Fringe Tree 2-gallon

2nd Place – SHRUB: Winterberry Male “Jim Dandy” 3-gallon

3rd Place – PLANTS: 2 Goldie’s Wood Fern 5-pint each

b) Beauty of Nature & Open Space

1st Place – TREE: Flowering Dogwood “Ragin Red” 3-gallon

2nd Place – SHRUB: Meadowsweet 2-gallon

3rd Place – PLANTS: 3 Toad Trillium 1-quart each

c) Wildlife in Bolton

1st Place – TREE: Apple Serviceberry “Autumn Brilliance” 3-gallon

2nd Place – SHRUB: Fragrant Sumac “Gro Low” 3-gallon

3rd Place – PLANTS: 3 Wild Columbine 1-quart each

c) People in the Environment

1st Place – TREE: White Fringe Tree 2-gallon

2nd Place – SHRUB: Ninebark “Tiny Wine” 2-gallon

3rd Place – PLANTS: 2 Ox Eye Daisy “Summer Nights” 5-pint each

*PLANTS, TREES or SHRUBS may be substituted based on availability

5.2 2023 Calendar Planning – Brenda

B. Cataldo reported that she is working on the page layouts. P. Van Dine offered to proofread the pages.

5.3 Water Resources – Laboratory Analysis Account Update - Peter

This will be discussed at the Wednesday meeting with Jim Rupert and Jill Collins. An account with Phoenix Labs is necessary to submit water samples.

5.4 Results BCC Vernal Pools Day Hike

Eleven people joined the hike. M. Rivers will add the participants contact information to his master spreadsheet. Ed Pawlak was the special guest. A vernal pool was verified on the Nathan Hale Greenway. It only takes the presence of one obligate specie to qualify as a vernal pool. The idea of having Connecticut certify vernal pools was broached. Mr. Pawlak plans to bring it up with CAWS (Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists). The ledge to the west of the vernal pool may have habitat for Black Rat snakes. A fun fact was that wood frogs sound like quacking ducks.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Earth Day 2022 Special Guest

Events will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Leslie Alexander, a Master Gardener, will lead a talk on ephemeral plants. B. Cataldo and J. Laughman will get together to purchase prizes for the fairy house building contest. B. Cataldo also has some prizes remaining from prior years.

R. Parlee has a few T-shirts for youngsters left over from previous years. He would like to purchase adult T-shirts as a thank you gift for the participants on the Freja Park trail management committee. He saw shirts for \$13.65 each on Amazon and will request that the town order two extra large shirts, 3 large shirts and 2 medium shirts.

P Van Dine moved that the BCC ask the town to order seven adult T-shirts at a cost not to exceed \$100.00. Funds will come from the Conservation Activity Fund. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

6.2 Trails Day 2022 on June 4th

The Trails Day hike will take place at 10:00 a.m. on the Nathan Hale Greenway. Matt Largess will be the special guest. He will be able to point out several “love” trees.

R. Parlee will be attending an old growth forest tour in Keney Park, Hartford on Saturday, April 9, 2022 with Matt Largess.

6.3 Review of MS4 Report and Salmon River Report

P. Van Dine noted that he reviewed the 2020 report and sent in a comment stating that it didn't really spotlight any problems. The Salmon River report had a more detailed identification of inflows. The 2021 MS4 report is not available yet although it should have been available in February. A report format change is holding it up. P. Van Dine made a complaint that the link to the MS4 report on the town website was not working. P. Van Dine was able to review a draft of the report from Wade Thomas.

P. Van Dine made his concern known to Hillary Kenyon Garovoy and Barbara Kelly that there is a significant problem with storm water runoff at Jupiter Lane and Colonial road. P. Van Dine read an Email from Wade Thomas stating that the town is not responsible for storm water flow from private property although the town wetlands officer may be able to intervene. P. Van Dine feels that the BCC should keep an eye on this situation and see how Vernon has handled the problem with the portion of Jupiter Lane that is in Vernon. R. Parlee and P. Van Dine would like to speak with Ryan Goad as there is a question as to how Vernon was able to pave their portion of the road. P. Van Dine thinks that Wade Thomas will be an ally in the handling of storm water. There are 45 days from today for any comments to be made about the MS4 report.

The BCC should inform the Bolton Lake Commission, the Town Administrator, the Wetlands agents and Hillary Kenyon Garovoy of any problems that they are aware of with storm water runoff.

R. Parlee will forward the MS4 report to commission members.

6.4 Stream Temperature Monitoring in Bolton

R. Parlee will be taking another Train the trainer course in relation to conducting a riffle bio assessment. He will bring up how difficult it is to accurately identify macroinvertebrates.

R. Parlee noted that the Salmon River report contained graphs of the water temperature monitoring. P. Van Dine noted that Megan Lally has come up with a new reporting process. He is working on pulling together monitoring information from the fall and will have the data prepared by next week.

The BCC has a total of six hobos in place and two are missing due to excessive summer rainfall. Hobos will be tethered with rebar and fishing line in the future. B. Cataldo suggested the use of braided fishing line instead of regular fishing line for added strength. Another hobo is on loan from CT DEEP but it had very low batteries.

R. Parlee mentioned that he wrote to Megan Lally of CT DEEP about the use of lead sinkers and lead buckshot and the deadly effect on bald eagles being poisoned by consuming the carrion. She referred him to Mike Beauchene of CT DEEP.

6.5 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP and CACIWC Reports- Peter, Rod, Matt

FBL-P. Van Dine noted that they are trying to increase membership. The dam at Hatch Hill Road is complete with fencing and drawdown capability. They are waiting for the landscaping to fill in. There needs to be a policy for the drawdowns of the three lakes to make sure that they are consistent. The bridge at Marc Anthony Drive might have been saved if the lake was lowered. Temperature and depth monitoring may be expanded to test for dissolved oxygen.

BLWCA-R. Parlee noted that they are meeting on April 13, 2022. They hope to have information on the watershed management report and any steering committee meetings that might take place. An osprey platform may be installed by the Tolland boy scouts in Upper Bolton Lake.

SRWP-A meeting will be held in May and M. Rivers is the BCC liason.

CACIWC- a link is included below of the latest edition of the “Habitat” newsletter. The last conference was held in November and another is planned for next November.

7.0 Correspondence

<https://www.caciwc.org/library/habitat/Habitat%20V34%20N1%202022%20Winter%20final.pdf>

8.0 Approval of Clerk’s Invoice

P. Vane Dine made a motion to accept the clerk’s invoice as presented. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

9.0 Adjournment

P. Van Dine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 2, 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.



Financial Action items

A. Bicknell moved to approve a purchase order request for \$323.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund to purchase trees/plants from the NCCD. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

P Van Dine moved that the BCC ask the town to order seven adult T-shirts at a cost not to exceed \$100.00. Funds will come from the Conservation Activity Fund. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.