

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Rescheduled Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, September 6, 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 7:07 p.m.

**2.0 Minutes Review of August 1, 2022 Regular Meeting**

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. A. Bicknell abstained.

**3.0 Public Comment:** None

**4.0 Financial Report**

**4.1 New FY Budget** <https://cdn.branchcms.com/EzoynNLyL2-1704/docs/22s7.20.pdf>

R. Parlee shared online the new FY Budget as of 07/01/2022. The BCC budget increased by \$300.00.

R. Parlee also shared the Financial Report online. There was discussion about the encumbrance of the sales tax amount.

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

**4.2 Spray Paint Purchase with new England Hardware Account**

P. Van Dine made a motion to expend up to \$50.00 on spray paint from the New England Hardware Account. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**5.0 New Business**

**5.1 Trail Damage in Freja Park – See Ordinances (below) and Purchase Trail Cam**

R. Parlee shared online the ordinances that are posted on the kiosk at Herrick Park.

<https://town.boltonct.org/ordinances-charter/ordinances/park-or-recreation-regulations>

R. Parlee read Section 2 which may be reprinted and posted on the kiosk entering Freja Park. BCC members proposed making some changes in the language of the ordinances. R. Parlee also read the motor vehicle rules. It is not clear that motor bikes are included in the language.

P. Van Dine felt that the BCC should write a letter to the BOS in care of the First Selectman to initiate a review of The Rules and Regulations for Parks and Recreational Areas. The ordinances have not been amended since 1979. B. Cataldo asked who enforces these ordinances.

R. Parlee spoke with Resident Trooper Messier. Trooper Messier walked through Freja Park and he felt that there was no malicious intent in the spray painting of the trees. That did not resolve the question of who enforces the town ordinances.

The purchase of a trail cam was suggested by The First Selectman and others. R. Parlee shared information about a trail cam that costs \$119.99 through Amazon that can connect with mobile devices - Osenous WIFI Trail Camera 48MP 4K Game Camera. There was concern about what would happen if the trail camera was stolen. These cameras may be located by GPS if stolen. There is a maximum 20-30 foot distance required for connection to mobile devices.

A. Bicknell made a motion to expend up to \$300.00 to purchase two of the above mentioned Osenous Trail Cameras at \$119.99 each plus shipping and sales tax. The cameras would be used in town parks pending Town Administration approval. Funds would come from the BCC Activity Fund. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

### **5.2 Mohegan Trail Project & Sign – Defacing State Property is against the law, fines \$400**

R. Parlee is working with John Bolduc from the Hop River Alliance. They are marking logs to be cut and used for check dams and water bars. At the vernal pool, there is a well defined trail that is not the established trail. This is impacting the upland forest area. R. Parlee is noticing more and more damage on the trail, including metal plates attached to the rocks and ramps installed for mountain bikes.

A turtle laid its eggs near the new bike repair stand. Yellow tape and stakes were put around that area to protect and mark it but it was removed apparently by members of the Hop River Alliance. The eggs are now hatching and there is no protection for the hatchlings. R. Parlee will meet with David Buckley from CT DEEP to discuss this matter and concerns with the vernal pool.

The Hop River Alliance has asked the BCC for funds to install a “Bolton Notch State Park” kiosk with an official map at the base of the Mohegan Trail near the tunnel parking lot. It was also suggested that “Painted Rock” be renamed “Bolton Notch State Park Outlook”. P. Van Dine noted that kiosk building is often an Eagle Scout project. A. Bicknell suggested sharing the existing kiosk at the tunnel parking lot titled “Hop River Trail Bolton Notch” by extending it and including more information.

John Bolduc feels that the well should be included on the map. The State archaeologist did not agree. A. Bicknell has looked at the well and many of the rocks were dislodged. It is quite fragile and should be protected but he thinks that a grate over the opening would be unsightly. His opinion is that the well is Native American due to the quality of the workmanship.

### **5.3 Stormwater Corps – CT Nemo Program**

<https://nemo.uconn.edu/stormwater-corps/communities/>

P. Van Dine noted that there is a program at the high school. He has Emailed David Dickson from UCONN but has not received a reply. He will follow up with him. The program locates places where sedimentation ponds or rain gardens would be appropriate i.e. the Boat Launch. R. Parlee feels that the BCC should support this program.

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

R. Parlee shared the form online. Minor corrections need to be made. R. Parlee forwarded the BCC release form to the town for review but if the town has one in place that is what will be used.

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

There was previous discussion about using the potential grant money to purchase composters. After discussion, it was decided that the grant should be used to purchase items that are outside of the budget constraints of the commission. Items under consideration are: additional trail cameras, composters for photo contest prizes, citizen science equipment, etc.

R. Parlee suggested purchasing testing equipment for Notch Pond. P. Van Dine suggested purchasing a conductivity monitor. He will research prices. The BCC and FBL may apply jointly for the grant. P. Van Dine will mention it at the September FBL meeting. The deadline for the grant application is the end of October. Approval is needed from the BOS to apply. By consensus, all BCC members agreed to apply for the grant.

R. Parlee will be presenting a workshop on composting at the Bentley Memorial Library on November 14, 2022. J. Laughman noted that there are master composters that may be interested in helping out. She will contact Dawn Pettinelli, coordinator of the Master Composting Program at UCONN.

#### **5.6 RBV on 10/23**

BCC members were asked to reserve this date. Richard Jewell and his grandsons may be joining in. Baker Brook, French Brook, Railroad Brook and Bolton Pond Brook are the planned testing locations. Meghan Lally sent information about a workshop on RBV identification. J. Laughman noted that the identification process is difficult due to lack of equipment and a better location is needed for looking at samples. She suggested contacting the high school to use students and their equipment.

### **6.0 Continuing Business**

#### **6.1 2022 Photo Contest Collage, 2023 Calendar Planning & Approve Draft Calendar**

The Photo Contest Collage is posted on the town website.

The following BCC meeting dates are proposed for 2023:

Monday, January 2, 2023  
Monday, February 6, 2023  
Monday, March 6, 2023  
Monday, April 3, 2023  
Monday, May 1, 2023  
Monday, June 5, 2023  
**Thursday, July 6, 2023**  
Monday, August 7, 2023  
**Thursday, September 7, 2023**  
Monday, October 2, 2023  
Monday, November 6, 2023  
Monday, December 4, 2023

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the meeting dates as proposed. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

R. Parlee also shared BCC event days, holidays, meteor shower dates and other events.

The consensus was to approve all dates that were mentioned.

## **6.2 POCD Section on Protect Water Resource Plan “Policy and Action Steps”**

By consensus, this was tabled until the October meeting.

## **6.3 Stream Temperature Monitoring Update**

R. Parlee shared graphs of the monitoring data. Peter explained that the data from the four stream locations was very similar. There are no temperatures below 32 degrees as only water temperatures are monitored, not ice. J. Laughman asked P. Van Dine to change the appearance of the lines for ease of reading. The graph of the vernal pool was also shared.

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

P. Van Dine met with Pam Sawyer, First Selectman, Jim Rupert, Town Administrator, Marty Sidler from the Town of Vernon and David Forrest from the FBL. Bolton and Vernon are state lakes but all costs associated with drawdown are charged to the towns. Both towns have an interest in having the DEEP update the drawdown policy. In September, the FBL will discuss forwarding a letter to DEEP.

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

**FBL**-Information was covered above

**BLWCA**- Will be meeting next Wednesday at the NCCD. The special guest will be Extension Educator, Alicia Tyson speaking on Sustainable Watershed Management. She will discuss watersheds and the effect of climate change.

**SRWP**-M. Rivers will report next month.

**BLT**-R. Parlee will speak with Deb Livingston about sharing the BLT minutes. In August, the IWC approved the restoration of two farms ponds on property across the street from Bolton High School.

**CACIWC**-The annual meeting will be held on October 29, 2022 in North Haven. Many interesting discussions are planned. The BCC membership application and payment have been received. The BCC plans on attending and tabling.

**Trails Committee**-Freja Park was discussed at the last meeting but no minutes were taken.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

### 2021 RBV Report Draft

Letter dated September 5, 2022, from Ron Beaudoin sent to the BOS as noise in his neighborhood is a continuing problem.

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

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

## **9.0 Adjournment**

A. Bicknell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 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**

P. Van Dine made a motion to expend up to \$50.00 on spray paint from the new England Hardware Account. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to expend up to \$300.00 to purchase two of the above mentioned Osenous Trail Cameras at \$119.99 each plus shipping and sales tax. The cameras would be used in town parks pending Town Administration approval. Funds would come from the BCC Activity Fund. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.