

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (joined at 7:18 p.m.), Brenda Cataldo, Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine and Alternate Matt Rivers

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of October 3, 2022 Regular Meeting

Under 5.7 in the second line of the second paragraph add the word “to” before pay.

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed 4:0:1. M. Rivers abstained.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

R. Parlee shared the Treasurer’s report online.

J. Laughman made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as submitted. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

4.1 Payment to Georgina’s Pizza from RBV

The receipt was submitted to the town for payment.

4.2 Winter Faire Registration due by 11/12

The Winter Faire will be held on Saturday December 3, 2022. BCC members are checking their schedules for tabling availability.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$20.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for Winter Faire Registration. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

R. Parlee sent the invoice to P. Van Dine for payment.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2023 Calendar Publishing, Ads & Distribution

R. Parlee will review the calendar dates. B. Cataldo will make the final edits. R. Parlee shared the calendar collage. B. Cataldo contacted all previous advertisers and provided them with the advertising form. R. Parlee will contact other town businesses. P. Van Dine will contact Able Coil. The deadline for calendar ads is November 11, 2022. B. Cataldo reported that the calendar will be sent to the printer shortly after that date.

Distribution strategy will be determined when the calendars are received from the printer. Highland Park will purchase twenty calendars for resale.

5.2 Results of Peak Foliage Hike on 10/16

M. Rivers reported that ten people attended the hike on the Mohegan Trail. John Bullock was the special guest. The yellow blazes on the trail need to be redone. The hike was two hours and forty-five minutes long due to the distance from the commuter parking lot to the trail.

5.3 Results of RBV on 10/23 & Stream Temperature Monitoring Update

A few new volunteers attended and the Herrick Park lodge was a good venue. R. Parlee noted that the results were not favorable as there were not many macro invertebrates found. B. Cataldo and J. Laughman could not retrieve the stream temperature monitor in French Brook due to high water levels. B. Cataldo noted that in French Brook, perhaps a different location along the brook would have more activity, perhaps closer to Tinker Pond. R. Parlee noted that a stream survey would need to be performed first. R. Parlee and P. Van Dine will swap out the stream temperature monitor in French Brook and contact the adjacent property owners.

5.4 ExStik II pH/Conductivity Meter

P. Van Dine reported that the results from French Brook were sent to Pat Young from the SRWP. The pH level was 6.7. Ms Young will review the results and report back. P. Van Dine has the results from the other streams available.

5.5 CACIWC 45th Annual Meeting & Conference Report

J. Laughman spoke with Meghan Lally from CTDEEP who suggested that the BCC could perform an RBV once every two or three years as opposed to every year at the same site. P. Van Dine suggested adding more sites and splitting them up from year to year. The BCC members felt that this was a good suggestion.

R. Parlee spoke on the success of the in-person conference and shared a collage of pictures from the meeting.

M. Rivers attended a “Talking Trash” workshop where miniature liquor bottles were discussed. A collectable deposit is in effect so that bottles will be returned as opposed to becoming trash. Municipalities will use the funds from bottle deposits for environmental improvements.

He also attended the invasive plants workshop. Hydrilla is problematic on the Connecticut River. Grass carp have been used as a control method. P. Van Dine noted that the grass carp are helpful but it is dicey to introduce a new species into an ecosystem.

He also attended a Water management workshop. He questioned if Bolton has a drought management plan in place.

A. Bicknell attended the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid workshop. The lady beetle that has been introduced as a control method has been helpful. Below freezing temperatures are also a good control method. Chemical control is expensive and requires yearly professional application.

He also attended a workshop on pollinator gardens. There was discussion about the lifecycle of monarchs and information about other butterflies.

He also attended a workshop on the Riparian Corridor.

A. Bicknell found the comparison of bear claw sizes interesting.

J. Laughman attended among others, the workshops about the Riparian Corridor and The History and Habitat of Bears.

R. Parlee oversaw of logistics as a CACIWC Director. He attended the Wetlands workshops. He felt that the Keynote inaccurately spoke on how the burden is placed on the Inland Wetlands commissions to prove that the wetlands will be impacted instead of the applicant proving no impact. He thought that the burden should be placed on the applicant. Since the theme of the keynote was to address the fifty-year anniversary of the Wetlands Act, he asked how wetlands protection in the last fifty years has been trending. Why has the CTDEEP not formulated model regulations?

5.6 Outreach – Matt

M. Rivers is the BCC outreach coordinator. When people attend a hike or other BCC event, a signup sheet is provided to obtain participant information. A database is maintained of these participants. Those participants can be contacted by Email when future events are planned.

M. Rivers suggested that these Emails be sent from a new BCC domain name. A domain name costs \$12.00 per year. One person would have to be named a moderator of the domain name. The domain, for example, could be used to notify the BCC about problems with the parks in town. R. Parlee asked M. Rivers to collect more information and forward it to him before next month's meeting.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Town Park Ordinances and Trail Cams Purchase

R. Parlee received an Email from the Town Administrator stating that the BOS and the town attorney do not approve the installation of trails cameras at this time. The resident trooper is monitoring trails on bicycles. There has not been any more illegal trail blazing. A. Bicknell suggested posting a statement on the kiosks asking people who use the parks to be respectful and responsible when using the area.

6.2 Town Photo Release Form for BCC Events

The town of Bolton has an official photo release form to be used for BCC events.

6.3 Bolton Greater Together Community Grant

R. Parlee submitted the grant application. He shared the completed application with the BCC members. Results will be available before Thanksgiving.

6.4 Mohegan Trail Project & BNSP Kiosk

More water bars will be installed within the next few weeks. The trail will also be reblazed.

A separate BNSP kiosk was suggested to include a copy of the town ordinances and a letter requesting respect and responsibility while enjoying the park. Park specific postings can be included.

6.4 FBL, BLWCA and SRWP Reports

FBL- The drawdown was done today. FBL submitted a grant application for \$4,000.00 for the purchase of a fluoroscope to measure toxic cyanobacteria. The well attended forum reported on the year's business. Hillary Kenyon Garoway provided a good recap of the watershed management plan.

BLWCA- The meetings are being held in person at the NCCD. Last month's special guest was Alicia Tyson from Connecticut SEA Grant College Program and the UCONN Extension. She provided a very good presentation on strategic/vision planning using a white board.

SRWP- An RBV was done by the SRWP at the Hebron end of the Blackledge River with RHAM students participating. M. Rivers reported that the SRWP are doing baseline stream temperature monitoring. The next meeting will be held on November 21, 2022.

7.0 Correspondence

RBV data sheets

Photography disclaimer

Completed Bolton Greater Together Community Fund Grant Application

Email responses from the Town Administrator to questions posed by R. Parlee

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

B. Cataldo 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 9:16 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 5, 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 appropriate \$20.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for Winter Faire Registration. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.