

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, Peter Van Dine and Matt Rivers

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of June 5, 2023, Regular Meeting

Under 5.2, line three, change slenderer to more slender.

M. Rivers made a motion to accept 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 Treasurer's report online.

P. Van Dine asked to amend the Treasurers report to reflect the clerk's salary for June as \$100.00 instead of \$125.00.

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as amended. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

4.1 Notch Pond Water Analysis Payment to Phoenix Environmental Laboratories

R. Parlee shared the recap of the baseline water chemistry sampling and test results for Notch Pond. The ExStik results are the reading from the meter itself and Phoenix results are from the laboratory testing. These are baseline results. Exstik testing can be done at any time at no cost. Although oil sheen was noted on the surface of the pond, no oil was found after testing.

P. Van Dine will research what the parameters are although further testing will help determine those as well.

4.2 End of Fiscal Year Report

P. Van Dine noted that June 30th was the end of the fiscal year and the balance in each account was noted in his report.

5.0 New Business

5.1 New USGS Thames River Flood Zones

R. Parlee and Patrice Carson were in attendance at a recent meeting concerning this matter. FEMA worked with the USGS to come up with a risk map. The flood zones have expanded

within all of the waterways. P. Van Dine noted that the lakes are currently above level and it wasn't that long ago that the bridge at Marc Anthony Lane in Bolton was washed out. He feels that if a tropical storm hits, there will be flooding unless the drawdown gates are opened. R. Parlee would like to set up a meeting with P. Van Dine and Pam Sawyer to discuss this concern. P. Van Dine feels that if CT DEEP isn't included in this meeting it won't be effective.

5.2 Bolton Boards 101

R. Parlee noticed on Facebook that there was a forum flyer of Bolton boards and commissions to be held but it did not include the Conservation Commission. There were several other commissions that weren't invited. A. Bicknell attended the forum. Approximately 30 people attended. This forum was an attempt to increase the public's participation on the boards and commissions in town. Each participant was allotted five minutes to speak. Many participants were impressed with all that the BCC does. R. Parlee complimented A. Bicknell on the fine job that he did in representing the BCC.

5.3 BHS Student Volunteer Opportunities

P. Van Dine will follow up on this with Bolton High School teacher Jen Carvalho. It would be nice to have student volunteers at the RBV.

5.4 Salamander Survey by Hank Gruner

A. Bicknell joined Rod Parlee in beginning the salamander survey. It was a very hot, steamy day with lots of mosquitoes. The parking lot was blocked off with rocks and there was a lot of trash at the beginning of the trail. They put a stream temperature monitor in the head waters of the Hop River. The vernal pool was unusually dry. They searched for salamanders under rocks and A. Bicknell found two Northern Dusky Salamanders.

The next salamander survey is scheduled for late July.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Notch Pond Litter from Culverts, Beavers, and Water Analysis Results

Notch Pond Litter - R. Parlee noted that the litter is difficult to see now that the vegetation is grown. R. Parlee sent a letter to Pam Sawyer and Jim Rupert in June concerning the litter problem asking what remedies there are to prevent trash from going in the culverts.

Beavers - After March 30th, there is no trapping of beavers. No beavers have been sighted recently in Notch Pond.

Notch Pond Water Analysis Results

Baseline Water Chemistry for Bolton Notch Pond
All data and water samples taken off the beach area of Freja Park
June 2023

On June 6, at 11:00 AM, Rod Parlee and Peter Van Dine used the Estic 1500 and took a water sample for analysis at Phoenix Laboratories. Since an oil sheen was observed they returned on June 8, at 4:00 PM, with Hach instruments and water sample bottle for Phoenix to test for oil and grease. The results are shown below.

Date	Device or Lab	Total Solids mg/L	Total Phosphorous mg/L	Total Nitrogen mg/L	Dissolved Oxygen mg/L	pH	Salinity mg/L	Conductivity µS	Oil & Grease mg/L	Temp deg C
06-Jun	Estic	370								
06-Jun	Estic						250			
06-Jun	Estic							559		
06-Jun	Estic					6.18				
06-Jun	Phoenix			0.93						
06-Jun	Phoenix		0.045							
06-Jun	Phoenix	190								
08-Jun	Hach					6.38				19
08-Jun	Hach				4.34					19
08-Jun	Phoenix								<1.4	

6.2 NRI-Mapping Latest Open Space Parcel Map with 490 Layer

There could be 490 farming and 490 forest maps. R. Parlee asked Jen Carvalho at Bolton High School if a student would be interested in working on this mapping project. R. Parlee has not reached out to CRCOG yet. This action item will remain on the agenda.

6.3 Stream Temperature Monitoring and 20th RBV on 10/29

P. Van Dine has a complete inventory of the launched monitors that he will share with the commission members.

The RBV is planned for October 29, 2023. Different locations may be accessed.

6.4 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, OGFN and CACIWC Reports

FBL – There was no quorum so no meeting was held in June. They are discussing an approved list of books about lakes for the Bolton and Vernon libraries. These will be mainly for children with at least one adult title.

BLWCA – They are waiting to approve the bylaws when a larger number of people are in attendance. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. They will discuss the bylaws and flood zone mapping.

SRWP –A watershed recreation map is in the works. The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2023. M. Rivers plans to attend. He will forward the SRWP annual newsletter to the BCC members.

OGFN – Marty Aligata shared a photograph of himself wearing his Bolton Earth Day T-Shirt next to a giant sequoia.

CACIWC – R. Parlee visited the new Doubletree Conference Center in Bristol that will be the location of this year’s Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference on November 11, 2023.

7.0 Correspondence

R. Parlee was invited to participate in the NEPARC (Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) meeting titled “Sharing the Landscape” to be held at Wesleyan University on July 25, 2023 from 10:00 to Noon. The cost is \$25.00 per person. A. Bicknell and R. Parlee plan to attend.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$50.00 out of a fund to be determined by the Treasurer for him and R. Parlee to attend the NEPARC Annual Meeting at Wesleyan. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

Rod sent a condolence card on behalf of the BCC to the Giglio family in memory of Arlene Giglio.

The Town clerk sent a reminder that a chairman and other officers must be appointed. This will be on next month’s agenda.

A. Bicknell mentioned that it would be nice to send Jean Laughman a note of thanks for her participation and expertise on the BCC. R. Parlee will do that.

A. Bicknell was reappointed for another 3 year term on the commission.

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 4:0:0.

9.0 Adjournment

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2023 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

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$50.00 out of a fund to be determined by the Treasurer for him and R. Parlee to attend the NEPARC Annual Meeting at Wesleyan. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.