

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), Jean Laughman and Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of December 5, 2022 Regular Meeting

Amend **Members Present** to make it clear that it was only Peter Van Dine who arrived to the meeting late and left early.

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

R. Parlee shared the Treasurer's report online. A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed 3:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

4.1 Submitted Budget Proposal for FY 23-24

P. Van Dine submitted the approved budget proposal to the town.

J. Laughman made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Professional Fees Account and \$25.00 from the Education Fund for membership to the CLCC (CT Land Conservation Council). A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

After discussion, P. Van Dine made a motion to rescind the above motion. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$50.00 from the Dues and Fees account to join the CLCC. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Activity Fund to join the FBL. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed 3:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

J. Laughman made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees account to join the Bolton Land Trust. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

4.2 Calendar Funds (including donations) Received

P. Van Dine noted that ad payment is pending from Dean Cabinetry. \$800.00 has been received from calendar sales and \$50.00 has been received in donations.

4.3 Brochure Printing Appropriation

J. Laughman made a motion to appropriate no more than \$120.00 from the Supplies Account to print 150 Freja Park brochures. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

As reference, 150 Freja Park brochures were printed in July 2020 for \$84.00.

For pricing information, P. Van Dine will ask B. Cataldo to request invoices for the printing of Freja Park and Vernal Pool brochures.

4.4 Increase in Services Provided by Phoenix Lab

P. Van Dine said that his understanding was that there would be a \$10.00 surcharge on every invoice regardless of cost. He will follow up on this.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2023 Calendar Sales, Ads & Distribution Update

R. Parlee noted that the best locations for calendar sales this year were the Bentley Memorial Library and Highland Park Market. Fish Family Farm and England Hardware were also good sales locations.

5.2 Bolton Greater Together Community Grant

R. Parlee noted that the BCC did not receive this grant. R. Parlee suggests that the BCC reapply in 2023. He is still interested in purchasing composters and/or rain barrels for resale and indicated that community members are interested in purchasing them. J. Laughman suggested that R. Parlee collect the names of people who are interested in purchasing composters. M. Rivers will be asked to keep track of those names. The subject will be discussed again in March. J. Laughman noted that UCONN Home and Garden Education Center website has information on composting.

5.3 Miniature Bottle Surcharge Program Funds

J. Rupert noted that although funds have been received, they cannot be used to purchase earth machines or the like. There are specific purposes that the funds can be used for such as installation of storm drain filters to block solid waste. P. Van Dine said that the funds may be used for cleanup on the trail parking lot, etc. R. Parlee asked P. Van Dine to follow up with J. Rupert to see what the funds are currently being used for.

5.4 Winter Trails Day on 1/21

R. Parlee suggested hiking the loop trail from the commuter lot to Railroad Brook Fish Restoration Project and back. Winter tree identification and looking at the “unexplained” circles in the ice could be interesting attractions.

5.5 Calendar Photo Request

R. Parlee received a request from Josh Hull, the 4-Town MPA intern, asking for permission to reprint two of the photos in the 2023 BCC calendar. Patrice Carson, Consulting Director of Community Development also requested two. The photos would be used for a 4-town website. J. Laughman stated that the reprinted photos should include the copyright symbol along with credit to the photographer and the BCC. R. Parlee will follow up on this with Mr. Hull.

5.6 Annual Report for FY 21-22

R. Parlee wrote the annual report with editing assistance from J. Laughman. P. Van Dine will review the report as well. R. Parlee will send the final report to the town. Publication usually takes place in May.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Results of Tabling Opportunity at Cropley's

B. Cataldo, R. Parlee and M. Rivers attended and sold nine or ten calendars. R. Parlee gave away lots of candy canes to participants in the recycling challenge. Many questions were fielded about recycling and repurposing items.

6.2 Outreach-Matt

R. Parlee has sign-in sheets from the Winter Faire and the event at Cropley's. He will forward the information to M. Rivers.

6.3 Stream Temperature Monitoring Update & ExStik II pH/Conductivity Meter

R. Parlee shared pictures from the day before of he and M. Rivers reinstalling the tidbit in the vernal pool. The data was retrieved after an application update.

P. Van Dine recapped the Hobo locations: French Brook, Railroad Brook, Nathan Hale Greenway, Bolton Pond Brook, Baker Brook the vernal pool.

P. Van Dine reported that when the Hobo was swapped from French Brook a water sample was taken to measure conductivity with the new ExStik meter. The conductivity data was reasonably close to what was measured on RBV day. This data was sent to Pat Young of SRWP who replied with a multi-page report on the SRWP monitoring system. P. Van Dine wants to use this new meter to be able to combine our data with SRWP's. College students monitor for the SRWP for ten consecutive weeks in the summer at the same day and time. Streams vary quickly and require more observation.

P. Van Dine suggested having students from Bolton High School monitor French Brook on a weekly basis. It's part of the SRWP so it would be good info to share with them. J. Laughman suggested asking the Scorso's if they would be willing to take water samples as they are always interested in obtaining the results. The water samples could be taken by them and picked up by a BCC member.

6.4 FBL, BLWCA and SRWP Reports

FBL-Peter noted that the FBL submitted for and received a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for the monitoring of cyanobacteria in Lower Bolton Lake. FBL has purchased a meter that senses the green color of the water. The color readings are then correlated to the actual counts of cyanobacteria. This process is very new technology, the meter is costly, and a trained lab technician is required to make the counts. However, the results are available much sooner than with current testing methods.

BLWCA-R. Parlee noted that the BLWCA would like to have a representative from the FBL at every meeting. The BLWCA has received new guidelines for osprey nesting and a study on growth rates of the Atlantic white cedar. They are awaiting a report from CTDEEP on the watershed management plan. Two new members have joined the alliance and one of them is interested in researching open space.

SRWP- M. Rivers will provide a report in February.

7.0 Correspondence

Recap of BCC minutes from FY 21-22 sent to all BCC members.

Response from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Email from Jim Rupert regarding the miniature bottle surcharge funds

Request for photos from Josh Hill

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

J. Laughman 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 8:47 p.m. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 6, 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

P. Van Dine made a motion to appropriate \$50.00 from the Dues and Fees account to join the CLCC. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Activity Fund to join the FBL. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed 3:0:1. P. Van Dine abstained.

J. Laughman made a motion to appropriate \$25.00 from the Dues and Fees account to join the Bolton Land Trust. R. Parlee seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

J. Laughman made a motion to appropriate no more than \$120.00 from the Supplies Account to print 150 Freja Park brochures. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.