

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell and Jean Laughman (left the meeting at 8:43 p.m.), Brenda Cataldo (joined the meeting at 7:07 p.m.) and Peter Van Dine (joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.) and Alternate Matt Rivers (left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.)

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Chairman R. Parlee called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of February 6, 2023, Regular Meeting

B. Cataldo made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine received payment today from Dean Cabinetry for their ad.

P. Van Dine reviewed the financial activity and balances since the last report.

4.1 NCCD Seedling Sale [2023 Brochure gp edits 2-16-23\[1162\] js\[1198\] js\[1215\] JS 2-14-23\[1275\] revJS 2-20-23.indd \(conservect.org\)](#)

R. Parlee shared the NCCD brochure online. He asked if the commission would be interested in purchasing some bare root seedlings. The seedling order is due by March 13, 2023. R. Parlee will purchase a bundle of 25 Canaan Fir seedlings for his own use and will donate those that he doesn't plant.

4.2 Outstanding Calendar Funds

There are no outstanding funds.

4.3 Status of Brochures

R. Parlee has all of the brochures and will be restocking the kiosk at commuter lot. The Town Hall has run out of deadwood brochures. The commission agreed to have more printed.

A. Bicknell made a motion to appropriate up to \$70.00 from the Activity Fund for the printing of 100 deadwood brochures. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

Discussion determined that the expected expense will be \$59.00.

4.4 CLCC Conference on 3/25

R. Parlee noted that CACIWC has joined the CLCC at the sponsor level. R. Parlee will be attending as a guest of CACIWC. One more person can attend at the membership rate but no other commission members were available to attend.

4.5 Earth Day T-Shirts

Earth Day T-Shirts have been ordered and will be delivered to Town Hall.

R. Parlee attended a calendar subcommittee meeting held by the Hop River Trail Alliance. They were looking for information about how profitable it would be to produce a calendar. They were also interested in what the Citizen Science proceeds were used for.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Nathan Hale Greenway Parking

R. Parlee mentioned the two letters that the BCC sent to the Board of Selectman regarding 130 Hop River Road. A response has not been received as of yet. The proposed parking area above Munson's would require the cutting down of trees as opposed to realigning the entrance to the current parking area.

5.2 Latest Open Space Map and Additional 490 Data

R. Parlee asked if any of the commission members read the letter from the Town Assessor. R. Parlee had a discussion with Kara Fishman regarding open space and 490 designations. P. Van Dine asked for the identification numbers that belong to the parcels. This would make mapping much easier. P. Van Dine will contact Kara Fishman for that information.

5.3 Vernal Pools Day (3/26), Earth Day (4/22), Kids to Parks Day (5/20) & Trails Day (6/3)

Vernal Pools Day-Vernal Pools Day will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Hank Gruner will be attending. The upper Munson's parking lot will be available for parking.

Earth Day-Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023. The annual fairy house building contest will be held. B. Cataldo will take care of prizes. The Recreation Director, Stephanie Crane asked for pictures of previous fairy house building events. R. Parlee plans to plant a tree.

Kids to Parks Day-Kids to Parks Day will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Herrick Park. The proposed bounce house will have no walls.

Trails Day-Trails Day will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023. R. Parlee has contacted Matt Largess to see if he would be interested in attending. The upper Munson's parking lot will be available for parking.

R. Parlee proposed holding a garden tour in July or August. Ideally the gardens would be organic and would utilize composters. J. Laughman noted that although she was in favor of the idea, it requires a lot of organization and planning.

5.4 Soil & Erosion Control Guidelines

[CONNECTICUT STORMWATER QUALITY MANUAL DRAFT](#)

R. Parlee emailed Denise Savageau, CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation Chair to have her include proper mulching techniques and proper silt fence fabric and installation instructions in the final copy. R. Parlee suggested that all BCC members take a look at this draft. P. Van Dine will check on the deadline for MS4.

5.5 Article & Webinar Questioning Clearcutting to Create Early Successional Habitat

[Frontiers | Forest-clearing to create early-successional habitats: Questionable benefits, significant costs \(frontiersin.org\)](#)

[Mythbusters 2: Logging for Wildlife in New England Forests? Separating Truth From Fiction - YouTube](#)

R. Parlee suggested that the commission members familiarize themselves with this information. There is no scientific backup that clearcutting is helpful to the natural habitat.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Comment on Tunnel Lighting and Graffiti to CT DEEP

R. Parlee forwarded to the BCC members a copy of the letter that was sent to Dave Buckley and the Board of Selectmen regarding the spreading of graffiti and requesting signs be installed that state fine on public lands. Signs are meaningless without enforcement, so the letter also proposed an increased enforcement.

6.2 Outreach-Matt

M. Rivers shared with R. Parlee the database of prior event attendees.

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

P. Van Dine received a report from the SRWP that details how they handle their monitoring. The BCC data should be consistent with the data from the SRWP. This was discussed in a previous meeting. P. Van Dine will forward the report to the BCC members.

P. Van Dine will also send stream temperature monitoring data to the BCC members.

R. Parlee has a kit to test for nitrates. P. Van Dine questioned what he would do with the result.

R. Parlee said that he would share the results and send them to the Izaak Walton League.

6.4 FBL, BLWCA, CACIWC and SRWP Reports

FBL-No report.

BLWCA-R. Parlee noted that they have a new map of the watershed. It stretches further than they had thought. They are waiting for a response from the CTDEEP about any potential impacts to Atlantic White Cedar. Michael Carlo will be installing an osprey nesting platform on his property.

CACIWC-Letters were sent about the viability of wetlands commissions pertinent to proposed legislation.

SRWP-M. Rivers plans to attend the next meeting in April.

7.0 Correspondence

NCC Seedling Brochure

CT Stormwater Quality Manual Draft

Peer-reviewed article and webinar questioning clearcutting

Letters to Pam Sawyer dated 2/17/2023 and 2/21/2023 re: 130 Hop River Rd

Letter to Dave Buckley dated 3/6/2023

E-mail from Town Assessor dates 3/1/2023 re: Open Space (PA 490) Data

8.0 Approval of Clerk's Invoice

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the clerk's invoice as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

9.0 Adjournment

B. Cataldo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 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 up to \$70.00 from the Activity Fund for the printing of 100 deadwood brochures. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0. Discussion determined that the expected expense will be \$59.00.