

## BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

**Members Present:** Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell, 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 7:05 p.m.

### **2.0 Minutes Review of May 1, 2023, Regular Meeting and May 22, 2023 Special Meeting**

**May 1, 2023:** J. Laughman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**May 22, 2023:** A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

**3.0 Public Comment:** None

### **4.0 Financial Report**

R. Parlee shared the financial report online.

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. J. Laughman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

#### **4.1 NCCD Seedling Sale Payment**

The payment of \$484.00 was made to NCCD for the purchase of plants and seedlings.

#### **4.2 Notch Pond Water Analysis**

R. Parlee and P. Van Dine will go to Notch Pond tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. to take water samples. There are funds in the budget to cover the cost of testing.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Notch Pond Litter from Culverts**

R. Parlee wrote a letter concerning this matter to Jim Rupert with a copy to Bike Walk Bolton and Pam Sawyer. The State DOT is responsible for the culvert. If a fence was installed at the culvert it would prevent the trash from going downstream. Vegetation may have covered the trash by now. When a response is received from J. Rupert, R. Parlee will share it with the Commission.

## **5.2 FBL Spring Forum Report**

A. Bicknell and P. Van Dine attended. A. Bicknell noted that the woman (Ginny Apple) who spoke about bald eagles was very interesting. The female is the larger of the eagles at around 20 pounds. The male is slenderer. Rodent poison and lead pellets are detrimental to the eagles. The survival rate of eaglets is about 50%. Adults live an average of 12 years when they live around people but can live up to 50 years in remote areas.

B. Cataldo added that she recently spoke to an eagle rehabilitator. In Connecticut, they are contracting the avian flu from eating deceased birds.

“Libraries Love Lakes” is an ongoing program in Vernon.

## **5.3 Kids to Parks Day (5/20) & Trails Day (6/3)**

**Kids to Parks Day** – This event was rained out. Next year a rain date will be planned. The Building and Grounds Department needs to remove some dead Beech tree limbs on the Bates Trail at Herrick Park.

**Trails Day** – R. Parlee was very enthusiastic about this hike on the Nathan Hale Greenway. Even though the circumference was not great, the bark on some of the trees was shaggy due to their age appearing to be old growth. A. Bicknell noted that native Linden or Basswood trees were found on the trail. Their leaves are the size of a large pancake. Four love trees were also found. One of the love trees had four different species growing together.

The vernal pool was too dry to install the tidbit.

## **5.4 Photo Contest Prize Results & Distribution-see attaché collage**

B. Cataldo compiled the results of the voting to determine the winners.

R. Parlee shared the poster of winning photos online.

When R. Parlee and B. Cataldo were dropping off prizes, they saw a hemlock that was split at the bottom and then was reconnected at the top.

The commission members enjoyed speaking with the winners.

B. Cataldo mentioned that trees as prizes are not always practical for the winners.

R. Parlee shared online a poster of a photo contest being held by the Hop River Trail Alliance.

## **6.0 Continuing Business**

### **6.1 Salamander Survey in June by Hank Gruner**

R. Parlee will follow up with Hank Gruner to determine a time frame for the survey.

R. Parlee was concerned with the possible leakage into the Nathan Hale Greenway wetlands from oil trucks that were parking behind England Hardware.

## **6.2 Beavers in CT**

R. Parlee noted that there are a number of folks who want to preserve the beaver population in Notch Pond. R. Parlee shared a response from the Beaver Institute. R. Parlee also contacted Beaver Solutions. B. Cataldo noted that if beavers are relocated they do not fare well as other established beavers may already be in the area. Trapping beavers is essentially drowning them. Trapping season is from December 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. More beavers will move in when others are killed. “Beaver Deceivers” are a method to deter beavers from clogging waterways.

R. Parlee will reach out to Michael Callahan to see about grant opportunities for non-lethal solutions.

## **6.3 NRI-Mapping Latest Open Space Parcel Map with 490 Layer**

R. Parlee will keep this on the agenda as no progress has been made. R. Parlee will attempt to educate himself on this and will reach out to CRCOG and UCONN for assistance.

P. Van Dine noted that if R. Parlee has GPS coordinates of old growth, love trees, rare salamanders, etc. he can map them easily.

## **6.4 SRWP Report, BHS Contact & ExStik II pH/Conductivity Meter**

P. Van Dine will contact the Scorsos about getting samples from their property in conjunction with SRWP.

M. Rivers reported that there will be a SRWP meeting next month.

J. Laughman will coordinate with Jen Carvalho at Bolton High School and Pat Young to see if there is a student who would be interested in taking water samples from the Scorso property. R. Parlee and P. Van Dine were in favor of having a high school student representative on the Conservation Commission.

The ExStik II pH/Conductivity Meter will be used tomorrow at Notch Pond.

## **6.5 FBL, BLWCA, OGFN and CACIWC Reports**

**FBL** – The current FBL president, Jason Seacat, is now the chairman of the Vernon Conservation Commission.

**BLWCA** –R. Parlee noted that he kayaked Upper Bolton Lake with CT DEEP and NCCD staff to the Atlantic White Cedar (AWC). Bill Moorhead of CTDEEP took soil samples (squeeze test) and conducted an assessment of the rare AWC area. There is a newly discovered medium fen in front of the rare AWC swamp which adds to the importance of preserving the area. Uncommon plants were found as well. The CT DEEP recommended various testing programs for the area such as surface level and pH. P. Van Dine noted that FBL has equipment to monitor water levels hourly but only on middle and lower Bolton Lake.

**OGFN (Old Growth Forest Network)** – R. Parlee noted that public and private forests are continuously being nominated to be inducted into the Old Growth Forest Network (OGFN). Nationally known arborist, Matt Largess suggested nominating the Nathan Hale Greenway.

**CACIWC** – R. Parlee noted that legislation has been proposed to promote housing growth zones which could circumvent the wetlands regulatory process. R. Parlee contacted his State Representative today to advocate against this.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

### **7.1 FEMA Work Map Meeting Invitation on June 20, 2023**

R. Parlee will be attending the meeting.

### **7.2 Link to: Wildlands in New England: Past, Present and Future**

<https://wildlandsandwoodlands.org/resources/wildlands-in-new-england/>

R. Parlee suggested that the commission members review this information.

R. Parlee met with an Eversource representative about installing an osprey nest on the Carlo property. Eversource would prefer to install it on State or Town land. Notch Pond was suggested as a location. R. Parlee will contact Brian Hess of CT DEEP to work out the details.

## **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 5:0:0.

## **9.0 Adjournment**

J. Laughman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. B. Cataldo seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 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**

None