

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, April 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held at Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell (present via Zoom), Brenda Cataldo (joined for a short time via Zoom), Matt Rivers (present via Zoom) and Peter Van Dine

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 March 4, 2024, Regular Meeting

P. Van Dine made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed 3:0:1. A. Bicknell abstained.

3.0 Public Comment: None

4.0 Financial Report

P. Van Dine shared the financial report at the meeting.

A. Bicknell made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine made a motion that a \$55.00 transfer be made from the Professional Educational Services account to the General Supplies account to pay for printing of the Freja Park brochures (\$75.00). A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.

P. Van Dine suggested that the potential shortfall in the Other Payroll account be tabled until the May meeting.

4.1 Memberships, Brochures, Conference

The memberships are pending for FBL (\$25.00) and BLT (\$25.00) and will eventually be paid from the Dues & Fees account.

Vernal pool brochures will be printed in the next fiscal year.

Reimbursement for the CLCC Conference (\$170.00) is in progress.

4.2 T-Shirt and NCCD Order

Earth Day T-shirts have been received and the reimbursement (\$157.00) process has been started.

Payment of \$311.00 to the NCCD for plants for photo contest prizes is in progress.

4.3 Maps from Action Blueprint

Maps have been received for the Bolton Lakes watershed (2) and Bolton Land Trust (2).

4.4 Expenditures of up to \$150.00

P. Van Dine made a motion that the Chairman of the Bolton Conservation Commission may, with the concurrence of at least one other member or alternate, approve the expenditure of no more than \$150.00 of Commission funds without formal approval of the Commission. Furthermore, such expenditure shall be subject to discussion at the next regular Commission meeting. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Library Program on April 18, 2024, on Recycling with All American Waste

R. Parlee shared the flyer for this event. The title of the event is “What’s In and What’s Out?” This will be noted in the monthly library newsletter. The BCC recycling challenge will be highlighted. Brian Popovich from All American Waste will be co-hosting with R. Parlee.

5.2 Earth Day Celebration and Special Guest on April 20, 2024

This will be at Freja Park with the fairy building contest being held before the guided walk led by morticulturalist Marge Winters.

5.3 Report on CLCC Conference at Wesleyan

R. Parlee reported that he, A. Bicknell and M. Rivers attended the conference. There were 56 workshops and 34 tabletop exhibits and the conference was well attended.

A. Bicknell attended four workshops. Two workshops highlighted Native American information, one was on activism presented by six high school students and one was about a business that turned lawns into natural habitats and was promoting ideas about making the woods more accessible to people.

M. Rivers attended three workshops. One was on source water protection, another was on using print and digital media and the last was on nature for resilience.

R. Parlee shared his workshop experience and highlighted the importance of networking, adverse consequences of light pollution especially now with LEDs, the need for more new parks in New England and how to understand old growth forests.

5.4 Results of Vernal Pools Day & Trails Day Planning

R. Parlee showed a collage of photos from Vernal Pools Day. Approximately 25 people attended.

R. Parlee suggested a hike to the old growth forest on Box Mountain on Trails Day. Matt Largess will be the special guest.

P. Van Dine made a motion that the BCC organize a hike to the old growth forest on Box Mountain on June 1, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. as part of Trail's Day. M. Rivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

5.5 Manchester Water Company Property

There is a large aquifer on this property and surrounding properties bordering Bolton and Manchester. There has been significant gully erosion and damage caused by ATVs with a concrete pipe that had been cracked.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Stream Temperature/Vernal Pool Monitoring Update

R. Parlee noted that on the Vernal Pool walk, the tidbit at Nathan Hale Greenway was not swapped out due to water levels and potential damage to egg masses.

P. Van Dine said that the tidbit in the Vernal Pool should not be swapped out until June or early July after everything has hatched.

There is a pathogen present in the water and all equipment should be disinfected before going into other streams or vernal pools.

A tidbit may be purchased and installed in the vernal pool behind the library in the fall.

6.2 Mapping GIS Meta Data with NRI

R. Parlee noted that P. Van Dine was able to coordinate with Ken Geisler on how to get the meta data from the State. The DEEP parcel map database is held in a format that would have been difficult to extract information from without help from the company that owns the program that P. Van Dine uses.

6.3 Photo Contest Deadline May 6, 2024, and Outreach

B. Cataldo noted that the photo contest judging could be done offline.

M. Rivers submitted his outreach report online to the commission members. He suggested obtaining a Town of Bolton Email address to be used for BCC correspondence to the public. M. Rivers will send a draft letter to R. Parlee outlining this request. The request will be emailed to Kathy McCavanagh.

6.4 FBL, BLWCA, SRWP, CACIWC Reports

FBL (Friends of Bolton Lake) –P. Van Dine noted that Robert Kortmann will be the guest speaker at the Spring Forum on April 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. The topic is cyanobacteria and invasive plants. Representative Tim Ackert will also be attending.

BLWCA (Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance) - R. Parlee and other BCC members are planning another kayak trip with UCONN to the rare AWC forest. He is looking for answers from CT DEEP on the statuses of the watershed management plan and the trash rack maintenance schedule.

SRWP (Salmon River Watershed Partnership) – There was no meeting in March. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2024. Matt will share the 2023 Summer Quality Report at the next meeting.

CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) – R. Parlee noted that there was no meeting in February. The April meeting discussed legislation and the annual meeting which will be held on November 16, 2024.

7.0 Correspondence

2024 calendar from the East Haddam Land Trust/Eight Mile River watershed

2024 issue of Estuary Magazine

R. Parlee reached out to Kyle Hopkins of the Manchester Water Co. and MLCT regarding ATV's. He is hoping to set up a meeting.

8.0 Adjournment

M. Rivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. P. Van Dine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Bolton Town Hall and virtually utilizing Zoom.

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 that a \$55.00 transfer be made from the Professional Educational Services account to the General Supplies account to pay for printing of the Freja Park brochures (\$75.00). A. Bicknell seconded. The motion passed 4:0:0.