

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 3, at 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Present Via Zoom: Rod Parlee (Chair), Alan Bicknell, Chris Vandenburg, Brenda Cataldo
& Katelynn King

Not in Attendance: Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – The Chair called meeting to order after a Roll Call at 7:05 p.m. The meeting began with technical difficulties as participants experienced audio issues and an uninvited participant named Luke joined. After resolving the technical problems, the BCC held their August meeting.

2.0 Minutes Review of July 6, 2026, Regular Meeting- A motion was made by Alan Bicknell, seconded and by Brenda Cataldo to accept the minutes and were approved unanimously, (Katelynn King abstained), with the following corrections: 4.2 Brenda Cataldo seconded the motion. 6.3 Alan Bicknell & Chris Vandenburg met with Peter Van Dine. 8.0 Ted Haggis is the correct spelling.

3.0 Public Comment - None

4.0 Financial Report- The finance report included updates on membership to the Friends of Bolton Lakes and a co-funding membership request to the Inland Wetlands Commission for CACIWC membership. Rod reported on a recent outreach event inspired by Mary Lou Amenta, former member of the Freja Park Subcommittee, where they set up a table with lemonade and educational materials about the Bolton Notch Valley Falls watershed at Freja Park trail kiosk. Rod Parlee proposed purchasing a canopy and table for future outreach events. Rod suggested we contact 4imprint.com for canopy, and we get an estimate for either a 6' or 4' table and a personalized canopy. Brenda Cataldo will be researching this information.

5.0 New Business

5.1 RBV on October 3rd at Herrick Park and Virtual Training, 8/4/2026 from 10-11:30 AM - The commission discussed the upcoming Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV) event, with Katelynn King noting a scheduling conflict. Rod mentioned concerns about declining water quality in local streams that have been assessed, as indicated by RBV data, and considered discussion on the possibility of different streams for future assessments especially if results continue to decline.

5.2 Update on Water Temperature Monitors and Extik Location – Chris

Chris Vandenburg updated the group on the status of water temperature monitors, including the need to replace a tether and compile data. Chris stated that Peter Van Dine still has the Extik and is using it to monitor Lower Bolton Lake. Rod Parlee asked if Chris could put together a map showing the locations of all stream temperature monitors in town, including GPS coordinates and compile an inventory list of all stream temperature monitoring equipment (Hobos, etc.) with serial numbers.

5.3 Bolton Lake Naiad Guadalupensis (Guppy Grass) - Rod Parlee discussed the return of NAIAD aquatic weed in Lower Bolton Lake after two years of clear water, attributing it to high phosphorus levels and expressing concern about the lack of a long-term plan for addressing the issue. The group discussed potential solutions, including manual removal and the disposal challenges of the invasive native species. Rod suggested we contact Peter Van Dine to get his opinion on the cause.

5.4 IWC and P&Z Monitoring Reports - Rod Parlee attended the IWC Zoom meeting with Eagle Scout, Nathan Slater who presented his Bridge project for Freja Park. Many questions were asked, and answered including how the bridge will be anchored, distance of bridge, etc.

The Planning and Zoning Commission discussed middle housing development on Cider Mill Road and reviewed proposed zoning regulations with regional plans. The commission added suggestions regarding flat roofs needing architectural interest and scheduled next discussions about overlay housing zones for the Cider Mill Road and Drive-in properties. Also mentioned were concerns about building over an aquifer as well as traffic flow on the busy corner.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Botanical Survey of the Bolton Notch/Valley Falls Watershed- Rod Parlee reported on the survey conducted by Sigrin Gadwa, who has been exploring various forested and wetland habitats. She is continuing her survey and will be presenting her findings. Rod Parlee suggested having the presentation at Bentley Library. Alan Bicknell will check for available dates in October.

6.2 Recommendation to Preserve Old-Manchester Drive-In Property

The Commission sent a letter to the Bolton Land Trust regarding possible preservation. He noted that the property is within the 1,552-acre Bolton Notch/Valley Falls Watershed and 90% is natural and only 5% has impervious surface. Rod mentioned receiving a response from the property owner waiting for a proposal. The group discussed the many environmental values of the property, including widespread turtle habitat with eggs found in the area, and Rod noted that grants are available for land preservation efforts.

6.3 Herrick Park Soccer Field Modified Stormwater Plans – Rod Parlee reported that the BCC has still not received documentation of the revised plans for the project from Jim Rupert. There are concerns about modified stormwater plans for the Herrick Park soccer fields, with Rod emphasizing the commission's statutory obligation to conduct research on the utilization and possible utilization of land area in Bolton.

6.4 Data Collection and Transfer Working Group – Flash Drive, Graphs, Tidbit, Batteries

Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell and Brenda Cataldo have added their information to the flash drive and is currently with Chris Vandenburg. Chris will bring the flash drive to the next meeting. Katelynn provided research insights about the RBV program, explaining that its purpose is to identify Connecticut's healthiest streams rather than conduct comprehensive assessments, and noted that data from previous years may not be readily available. The BCC agreed they should maybe consider hiring a consultant for more thorough stream testing instead of continuing with the current program that only shows healthy streams rather than investigating sources of pollution.

Chris Vandenburg talked about the tidbit at Nathan Hale Greenway Vernal Pool, and that the battery is low. Chris will replace battery and will purchase a new battery if needed and save the receipt for reimbursement.

6.5 BSA Troop 73 Projects at Freja Park with Nathan Slater and Lorelei Charney

Alan Bicknell and Chris Vandenburg attended the invasive plant removal work party at Freja Park, along with Tom Charney, Troop Leader and 3 scouts and other volunteers. A 20' x 60' area was cleaned up of invasives along the right of way. Rod Parlee suggested cutting the remaining standing thick vines protruding from the ground, to prevent accidental injury. Alan Bicknell suggested that the BCC should put in the plantings not Lorelei Charney. Rod Parlee and Alan Bicknell will be planting 4 native plants donated from the North Central Conservation District plant sale. Alan Bicknell will also visit a couple of nurseries for purchasing or possibly donating any native pollinating plants on clearance.

7.0 Reports: Bike Walk Bolton (CSP), FBL, BLWCA, SRWP (MS-4), CACIWC-

Chris Vandenburg reached out to BWB expressing interest in the BCC collaborating with them. No report from FBL. BLWCA future meeting may now be conducted by zoom only, Amy Patterson of CLCC to attend the next BLWCA meeting. SRWP -no one to report. CACIWC Annual Conference will be held November 14th.

8.0 Correspondence -shared link from Sigrun Gadwa [Carya Ecological Services, LLC - Carya Ecological Services, LLC](#)

9.0 Adjournment- A motion was made to adjourn by Katelynn King and seconded by Alan Bicknell and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 P.M. Next meeting will be a hybrid meeting at Town Hall on September 3, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda V. Cataldo

Brenda V. Cataldo, BCC Member



Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.

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