

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 5, at 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Present Via Zoom: Rod Parlee (Chair), Alan Bicknell, Chris Vandenburg & Brenda Cataldo
Not in Attendance: Katelynn King & Peter Van Dine

1.0 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call, Chair called meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of September 3, 2026, Regular Meeting- A motion was made by Alan Bicknell, seconded by Chris Vandenburg to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

3.0 Public Comment – none

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 CACIWC Annual Meeting Registration- This conference will take place on November 14th at The Marriot, in Cromwell, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Rod Parlee discussed some of the sessions that will be presented. There will be 4 workshops per session, one of which will be presented by Susan Masino on Natural Area Preserves with the State of CT now having 28 Preserves.

A motion was made by Chris Vandenburg to appropriate up to \$340.00 for up to 4 BCC members to attend at \$85.00/each and to be expended from the Professional Education & Training account. Alan Bicknell seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell and Chris Vandenburg to attend, and possibly Katelynn King.

4.2 2026-2027 Calendar Publication Appropriation- Rod Parlee contacted Jason Lemire from Hedges & Hedges Printers for a calendar estimate. The cost this year will be \$1,660.00 for 150 calendars. Jason Lemire also stated that he would like the calendar draft no later than November 2nd. A motion was made by Chris Vandenburg to appropriate \$1,660.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund for calendar printing and was seconded by Alan Bicknell. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

4.3 Winter Faire Registration-December 5th- 10:00-3:00 at Bolton Center School- Alan Bicknell made a motion to appropriate \$20.00 from the Dues & Fees Account, to table at this event, and Brenda Cataldo seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Peak Foliage Hike on October 18th at 1:00 p.m.- Rod Parlee proposed that this be a 6-mile round trip hike. It will begin at Freja Park Kiosk, continue through Freja Park along the Hop River Trail to the Webster and Echo Ridge Preserve which is owned by the Northern CT Land Trust, overlooks Valley Falls and is part of the Old Growth Forest Network.

<https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/> Rod Parlee will also contact Karl Hasel of the NCLT

<https://northernctlandtrust.org/about/> to collect current information on the Preserves that the BCC could present to visitors on the hike. A motion was made by Chris Vandenburg to have the Peak Foliage Hike on October 18th and was seconded by Alan Bicknell. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

5.2 26th Annual Photo Contest & 2027 Calendar, Monthly Photos, Events & Ad Forms- Rod Parlee suggested we add submitting macro photography images to the Photo Contest poster/flyer and a QR code be included for quick reference to the detailed photo contest rules. The Photo Contest submission deadline will be May 4, 2027. Chris Vandenburg made a motion to kick off the 2026-27 photo contest and was seconded by Brenda Cataldo. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

The following BCC dates for the 2027 calendar year are as follow: Monday-January 4, Monday-February 1, Monday-March 1, Monday-April 5, Monday-May 3, Monday-June 7, Monday-July 5, Monday-August 2, Thursday-September 9, Monday-October 4, Monday-November 1, and Monday-December 6. Alan Bicknell made a motion to approve the tentative dates for BCC meetings in 2027 and was seconded by Chris Vandenburg. Motion passed unanimously 4-0. Meetings will all be at 7:00 PM and alternate between Town Hall (Hybrid) and just Zoom.

The following are BCC Event dates for the 2027 calendar year: Winter Trails Day-Saturday, January 16, Vernal Pools Day-Saturday, March 27, Earth Day Celebration-Saturday, April 17, Photo Contest Deadline-Tuesday, May 4, Kids to Parks Day-Sunday, May 16, Trails Day-Saturday, June 5, RBV-Rifle Bio Assessment-Saturday, October 2, and Peak Foliage Hike-Sunday, October 17. Will also include NCCD Plant & Seedling Sale dates as follows: Bare root tree orders are due: Tuesday, March 9, All plant orders due: Wednesday, April 7, Pick-up days: Friday April 23 and Saturday April 24. All calendar dates are subject to change. Brenda Cataldo made a motion to approve the 2027 Event Dates and was seconded by Chris Vandenburg. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

5.3 Results of RBV/Hobo Swap on Saturday-October 3, Herrick Park Lodge- Rod Parlee reported on another successful RBV that was very well organized. Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell & Chris Vandenburg conducted the collections at both French & Baker Brook and conducted Hobo swapping at four sites. Brenda Cataldo remained at the lodge to prepare collection tools. Once specimens were collected and brought back from the sites, Brenda Cataldo and Chris Vandenburg began sorting. Everyone spent the end of the day eating pizza and identifying macro-invertebrates. The unofficial results were; Baker Brook: 1 most wanted and three moderately wanted. French Brook: 2 most wanted and 2 moderately wanted. Both streams had good riffles.

5.4 Update on Water Temperature Monitors, Mapping and Extik Calibration- Rod Parlee reported that the Water temperature (Hobo) swapping, was completed at French, Baker, Railroad and Bolton Pond Brooks at the same time of the RBV. Chris Vandenburg will update any mapping. Chris also mentioned that the Extik does require calibration.

5.5 Data Collection and Transfer Working Group – Meeting Wednesday- Rod Parlee reported that he will be meeting with Cameron Larsen- IT person at Town Hall, October 7 at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will show how to transfer data from the BCC flash drive to the town's BCC portal. Chris Vandenburg will also be attending. After the meeting is concluded Rod Parlee and Chris Vandenburg will go to the Nathan Hale Greenway Vernal Pool to replace the tidbit if it has water.

5.6 IWC and P&Z Monitoring Reports- Rod Parlee expressed concerns on how the IWC will monitor stream crossings during a non-permitted-without conditions, jurisdictional ruling during a timber harvest. Alan Bicknell reported on the P&Z meeting. Bolton subdivisions and zoning of multi-family properties were discussed. A Masterplan (specific standards) vs. Amendments Required (non-project requirement). P&Z would apparently move forward with the separate Master Plans based on separate projects.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Botanical Survey of the Bolton Notch/Valley Falls Watershed- Rod Parlee spoke with Sigrun Gadwa regarding a presentation date at Bentley Memorial Library. Sigrun Gadwa was leaning towards the end of November or early December for her presentation.

6.2 Recommendation to Preserve Old-Manchester Drive-In Property- Alan Bicknell suggested the BCC send a second letter to the Bolton Land Trust regarding the ecological/watershed importance of acquiring the Manchester Drive-In property. He agreed to draft a follow-up letter.

6.3 Herrick Park Soccer Field Modified Stormwater Plans – Rod Parlee reported that Jim Rupert, Administrative Officer, will be retiring but will continue to work on the Old-Manchester Drive-In and the Herrick Park Soccer field planning.

6.4 Results of Tabling at Heritage Farm and Outreach– Rod Parlee reported that tabling at Heritage Farm went very well. Weather was beautiful and several people came by to talk with the BCC about several of our projects and upcoming events. The BCC's new customized EZup tent was easy to set up and eye catching. It was suggested that the BCC Sign-up sheets specify to print email addresses clearly for contacting purposes, as several were not legible. Rod Parlee also asked Chris Vandenburg to put together a sign-up sheet for the Peak Foliage Hike on October 18.

6.5 BSA Troop 73 Projects at Freja Park with Nathan Slater- Nathan Slater reported that all permits have been approved and he has received an estimate for materials from Sanford & Hawley Lumber in the amount of \$1,000.00. Nathan Slater presented his fundraising poster and stated that he has received \$400.00 in donations so far. Rod Parlee suggested the BCC would like to donate \$100.00 to this project. A motion was made by Alan Bicknell and seconded by Chris Vandenburg that the BCC donate \$100.00 from the Conservation Activity Fund. Check would be made out to Nathan Slater- Project, Troop 73, Eagle Scout Program. Motion passed unanimously 4-1. Nathan will send a copy of the donation form for the Finance Department. He is hoping to have the project completed before his 18th birthday- December 8th. If this project is not completed by then, he will not receive his Eagle Scout designation but will proceed with completion. Rod Parlee stated that the BCC will offer assistance where needed.

7.0 Reports: Bike Walk Bolton (CSP), FBL, BLWCA, SRWP (MS-4), CACIWC – Chris Vandenburg is now a member of BWB and attended a meeting where they expressed concerns over Rails to Trails not having access to bike from Bolton Lake. Concerns were also raised for traffic calming measures at Bolton Notch. FBL will hold a presentation on Low Income Development which will be held at Camp Newhoca on October 14th at 6:30 pm, presented by Alyssa Barrosa and Lorie Mathieu. BLWCA- Amy Patterson attended meeting and discussed Land Purchasing and Preservation concepts. SRWP- no discussion. MS-4 -Michael Carlo stated that CTDOT will be using drones, to map all storm drain culverts on DOT land. CACIWC- Annual Meeting to be held November 14th at The Marriot, in Cromwell, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

8.0 Correspondence- none

9.0 Adjournment- Alan Bicknell made a motion to adjourn at 9:28 PM and was seconded by Chris Vandenburg and passed unanimously 4-0. Next meeting will be held Thursday, November 5, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at Bolton Town Hall and be a hybrid meeting.

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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