BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 (Rescheduled from 11/5/2026)

Virtual Only 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, meeting was called to order by Chair at 7:08 p.m.

2.0 Minutes Review of October 5, 2026, Regular Meeting- A motion was made by Alan Bicknell, seconded by Chris Vandenburg to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

3.0 Public Comment – none

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 2027 Calendar Ads- Rod Parlee and Brenda Cataldo collected a total of 18 advertisers for the calendar. 13 advertisers have submitted payment and the remaining 5 are sending payment.

4.2 Winter Faire & CACIWC Registration- Rod Parlee stated that the $20.00 tabling fee for Winter Faire has been paid. The BCC will be donating one Bolton Town Calendar for their raffle. The annual CACIWC Conference will be attended by Rod Parlee, Alan Bicknell and Chris Vandenburg. The BCC will be tabling at this event as well. Rod Parlee encouraged members to attend different sessions from each other, to gain as much knowledge as possible from this conference.

4.3 FY 2027-2080 Budget- The BCC will request the same budget as last year; however, this item was be tabled by consensus until next month.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2027 Calendar & 26th Annual Photo Contest, monthly photos, events and ad forms- The Commission reviewed the calendar/photos and liked the QR code links that were added, one for the North Central Conservation District seedling sale and another QR code for quick referencing to the detailed photo contest rules. Brenda Cataldo suggested that in addition to the calendar advertisers, we give a free calendar to the photographer that made the calendar cover. Alan Bicknell made a motion to have the cover photo winner receive a free calendar, Chris Vandenburg seconded and motion passed unanimously 4-0. Brenda will notify everyone who submitted photo contest entries of calendar sale locations.

5.2 Update on Water Temperature Monitors, Mapping and Extik Calibration- Chris Vandenburg printed an updated map that included all the monitored streams. The Extik was tested out and calibrated, and all work properly. Chris will share data with CTDEEP and also has

provided a Bolton Pond Brook and Headwaters of the Hop (Nathan Hale Greenway) daily average temperature graph for the calendar.

5.3 Citizen Science Data Collection and Transfer Working Group- Chris Vandenburg and Rod Parlee met with Cameron Larson- IT person at Town Hall on October 7. A password was set up to sign into the One-Drive Portal. Chris Vandenburg uploaded the BCC flash drive to One-Drive. Commissioners will also update year end info onto flash drive.

5.4 Illegal Dumping above Boltons Aquifer on Cider Mill Road- Neighbors reported to the Chair that 68 illegally dumped tires, most of them large truck tires, along with furniture and appliances, were found in the wooded area off Cider Mill Road, directly across from a "$219 Fine for Littering" sign. After consulting with Jim Rupert, Rod Parlee contacted property owner Michael Taylor, who dispatched a property manager to meet with neighbors on November 7, 2026. The property manager notified State Trooper Sanchez, who responded to the site, located a box bearing an address label that is under investigation, and recommended the installation of surveillance cameras. Volunteers removed a trailer load of litter, and the property manager subsequently installed a chain to restrict access and posted No Trespassing signs.

5.5 Three Healthy Old White Pines posted for removal on Goodwin Road- Rod Parlee reported (based on signs on trees) that he had contacted AJ Golden, Bolton's Tree Warden, about three healthy looking White Pine trees are apparently causing a flooding issue to neighboring properties. Brenda Cataldo who lives in the area and manages abutting properties has a map she made and would like to understand where the flooding is and how removing the very mature trees will help deter flooding. Alan Bicknell made a motion to pursue the reasoning of cutting three healthy White Pines on Goodwin Road and get better clarification of the notification process. Brenda Cataldo seconded and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

5.6 Bike Rental Proposal for Bolton Notch State Park- Rod Parlee stated CT DEEP is seeking public comment on possible bicycle rental offerings along four linear CT State Parks and Bolton Notch State Park is one of them. The Commission expressed traffic safety concerns for entering and exiting the park from Interstate I-384 to get to the bike rentals safely as just one safety issue. Chris Vandenburg made a motion to send a letter of concern to DEEP for Bike Rentals at the Bolton Notch State Park and was seconded by Alan Bicknell. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

6.0 Continuing Business

6.1 Results of Peak Foliage Hike on October 18th- Rod Parlee reported that, those who attended, enjoyed the 6.3-mile hike to the Webster and Echo Ridge Preserve and the view of Valley Falls from the peak. Matt Largess was the special guest.

6.2 Botanical Survey of the Bolton Notch/Valley Falls Watershed- Rod Parlee stated that Sigrun Gadwa had been ill and must postpone her presentation at Bentley Memorial Library.

6.3 Recommendation to Preserve the Old-Manchester Drive-In Property- Rod Parlee reported that the Bolton Land Trust stated, that there are no acquired properties adjacent to the Drive-In. Alan Bicknell shared a letter regarding the historical value of the Old Manchester Drive-In Property, should this property be lost. Alan Bicknell made a motion to approve this letter for land preservation (with some corrections) and encourage the Land Trust to secure this amazing piece of land and was seconded by Brenda Cataldo. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

6.4 Herrick Park Soccer Field Modified Stormwater Plans- Rod Parlee stated that the BCC has not yet been provided with detailed information as requested.

6.5 BSA Troop 73 Eagle Scout Project at Freja Park with Nathan Slater- Rod Parlee and Alan Bicknell reported on Saturday's progress with Nathan Slater in putting the bridge supports in, which will be followed by putting on decking boards and railings.

6.6 IWC & P&Z Monitoring Reports- Rod Parlee spoke about the IWC- removal of mature oak trees on 32 Shoddy Mill Road and questioned if they knew there is a NDDB (blob) designation on the north end of the property along Baker Brook. P&Z- Arlene Fiano stated that the Commission is aware of conservation easements in town, and they can easily be found in the town clerk's office on the property deeds. Rod Parlee raised concerned as to what happened to the Open Space Preservation & Acquisition Committee and the funding.

7.0 Reports: Bike Walk Bolton (CSP), FBL, BLWCA, SRWP (MS-4), CACIWC- Rod Parlee reported that there were no recent meetings for Bike Walk Bolton, however the FBL Forum "Using Plants to Protect Our Water" discussed low impact development, rain gardens and riparian corridors. BLWCA- 64-acre property, working with a real estate agent to get more detail. FBL working with DEEP to release info from Bolton Lakes Watershed Management Plan. SRWP- no one attended. CACIWC- Annual Conference with up to 250 people attending.

8.0 Correspondence- BoS Land Use Meeting- Tuesday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. following the Board of Selectman's Meeting. Rod Parlee and Alan Bicknell will be attending.

9.0 Adjournment- Alan Bicknell made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Brenda Cataldo and passed unanimously 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. Next meeting will be held on December 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at Bolton Town Hall and Virtually.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda V. Cataldo

Brenda V. Cataldo, BCC Member

Bolton Conservation Commission

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

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