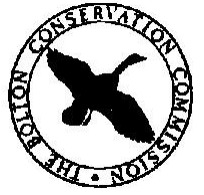




# Bolton Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes



Date:	Tuesday, February 13th 2023
Time/Location	7:00 p.m. Zoom (remote participation)
Commissioners Present:	Chair Brian Berube, William Payne, Lori Stephenson, James Geraghty, Paal Brandvold, Gillian Glassanos, Conservation Agent, Rebecca Longvall
Guests:	Andrew Schaubhut, Mitchell Dutcher
Next Meeting:	Tuesday, February 21 <sup>st</sup> 2023 7:00pm via Zoom

- 1. Discussion Trail Navigation Improvements** – Andrew Schaubhut was present from Bolton Trails Committee. Conservation Agent provided summary of documents provided to commission noting the goal is to improve upon navigation through one of our most popular and complex properties rattlesnake conservation area. An informal subcommittee of volunteers have met to discuss feedback received over the years and the documents provided to the commission prior to the meeting included a narrative outlining option of trail marking from other organizations and entities throughout Massachusetts and New England, a heat map, and a proposed circuit map that exhibits main color-coded circuits that are connected by trails. The circuits were chosen/based on heat map data and routes that began at a main trail head. After discussion the commission unanimously requested that this concept move forward and for the conservation agent to provide the material to be used to be formally voted and approved at another conservation commission meeting. The Commission also noted the opportunity to incorporate shapes, if possible, along with color. They were supportive of the plastic markers applied by nailing to a tree due to the permanence. The Conservation Agent will research products and provide the chosen materials to conservation commission to authorize at an upcoming meeting.
- 2. Notice of Intent – 19 Whitcomb Road – DEP# 112-0723** proposed septic renovation and construction of a new barn/garage structure –Mitchell Dutcher property owner was present to address questions from the commission. Conservation Agent provided summary including that the revised plans have been submitted prior to the meeting and a narrative expressing the changes inclusive of operation and maintenance. **Chair Brian made a motion to close the public hearing for 19 Whitcomb Road DEPfile#112-0723. James seconded, all unanimously, AYE. Roll call vote: BB, WP, JG, LS, PB, GG, AYE. Chair Brian made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions as drafted for 19 Whitcomb Road DEPfile#112-0723. Paal seconded, all unanimously, AYE. Roll call vote: BB, WP, JG, LS, PB, GG, AYE.**
- 3. Notice of Intent – 0 S. Bolton Road – Map 2.C Parcel 23 – DEPfile#112-0720** construction of a subdivision roadway and stormwater infrastructure  
The Conservation Agent provided a summary that she has initiated internal conversations regarding the best vehicle for the open space to be considered for the Town. They are still awaiting MEPA review and anticipate continuing until April. However, the item will remain on the agenda for documentation purposes and if additional information is available in a timelier manner the applicant may be able to provide that update. **Chair Brian made a motion to continue the public hearing for 0 S. Bolton Road DEPfile#112-0720 until February 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 at 7:30pm via zoom. Gillian seconded, all unanimously, AYE. Roll call vote: BB, WP, JG, PB, GG, LS, AYE.**

4.	<b>Request for Extension Order of Conditions – 164 Green Road – DEPfile#112-0685 –</b> <i>Conservation Agent provided update, no work has begun, extension is requested as the pandemic, associated material costs, and financial difficulty delayed the start of the project. The WPA allows up to three-year extension, Bylaw allows only one year extension at a time. Chair Brian made a motion to issue an extension of one year from the original date of expiration for the order of conditions associated with DEP file #112-0685. Lori seconded, all unanimously AYE. Roll call vote: BB, WP, JG, LS, PB, GG, AYE.</i>
5.	<b>Vote – Support Derby Field Renovations grant application</b> <b>Chair Brian made a motion to issue a letter in support of the Derby Field Renovations grant application. Paal seconded. Roll call vote: BB, WP, JG, LS, PB, GG, AYE.</b>
6.	<b>Vote – Bolton Conservation Trust offer to donate \$2,500.00 toward Bower Springs Conservation Area projects associated with the Land Maintenance line item of Conservation Department Budget Request for FY24.</b> <i>Commission inquired of any requirements associated with the donation of funds. Conservation Agent expressed the Trust specified [as stated above] what the funds are to be contributed toward only. She further noted the commission is voting to accept and request that the Selectboard authorize the donation as they are required to authorize all gifts/donations to the Town of Bolton. The funds will be placed in the Conservation gift fund (not the “Conservation Fund” and book marked for the specified projects which are the contracted mowing at bowers or the larger two phased project inclusive of removing woody vegetation along the earthen dams only [not the entire circumference of the ponds] and bringing in fill to bring the dams to grade, then the restoration with herbaceous vegetation to reduce erosion around the ponds.</i> <b>Chair Brian entertained a vote to accept the donation in the amount of \$2,500.00 as discussed, this evening and respectfully request the Selectboard authorize the donation. Roll call vote: BB, WP, JG, LS, PB, GG, AYE.</b>
7.	<b>Enforcement Order update – 100 East end Road, 3 John Powers Lane awaiting final stabilization/proof of 75% success of seeding in spring. Century Mill Estates wrapping up documents from peer review to reassess fines that will be issued.</b>
8.	<b>Minutes – 1/10/2023, 1/24/2023</b>
9.	<b>Conservation Agent Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bolton Trails Connectivity Improvement Project – <i>Initiation phase complete, begin coordinating outreach, site visits and project materials.</i></li><li>• Upcoming Walk Summit Series – <i>Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> 2023, 12pm at Vaughn Hills Conservation Area to begin at Moen Trail Head off of Vaughn Hill Road and traverse to North Peak.</i></li><li>• NRCRLM Bylaw/Regulations Priority Recommendations review follow up for any outstanding comments, due by the end of this week</li></ul> <b>Opportunity:</b> Volunteer Land Steward position, Conservation Commission Member Open Space and Recreation Plan Subcommittee  For all inquiries regarding these opportunities please contact the Conservation Agent, call 978-779-3304 or email <a href="mailto:rlongvall@townofbolton.com">rlongvall@townofbolton.com</a>
10.	<b>Chair Brian made a motion to adjourn the public meeting of the Conservation Commission Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 8:40pm Paal seconded; all unanimously AYE.</b> <b>Roll call vote: BB, WP, JG, PB, GG, LS, AYE.</b>