

Bolton Conservation Commission

June 1, 2015

Bolton Town Office

Present: Lars Botzjorns (Chair), Amy Ludwin, Jerry Mullen, Steve McLeod

Absent: Ali Kosiba

Guests: Virginia Haviland

1. Public Comment: None.

2. March 16, 2015 minutes: Approved as written.

3. Bolton Potholes

Lydia Menendez did not attend the meeting. There was a brief discussion about the current status of the site. Lydia will be invited to a future meeting.

4. Winooski River watershed issues

a. Floodplain forest inventory

The Science to Action Project identified floodplain forests along the Winooski River as a high priority for conservation and restoration in Bolton. The next step is to contract an ecologist to inventory the entire shoreline of the Winooski in Bolton, assess the condition of existing forest and identify gaps in cover that should be restored (with recommendations for species to be planted). Eventually landowners can be approached about their desire to participate in restoration activities, which could be funded through the FOW (and its connection to the Intervale Conservation Nursery). Possible funding sources for the inventory are the BCC budget, the Bolton Conservation Fund, Vermont Watershed grants, and other public or private grants. The Richmond Land Trust has recently conducted floodplain restoration; Brad Elliott should be consulted. The BCC can also work through the online forum, www.boltonvt.org. The Commission moved to authorize Lars to contact potential inventory specialists who could assess the condition of our floodplain forests along the Winooski River.

b. Smilie School stormwater project

Discussion about ongoing stormwater mitigation projects at Smilie School. Presentation to students is planned for the future, Smilie principal is interested and looking into these options, and the Friends of the Winooski River (FOW) is seeking grants. The Commission moved to support the efforts at Smilie school to control or mitigate stormwater impacts from Joiner Brook, through various projects proposed by FOW and Smilie School Principal Tomasi-Gay.

5. Preston Pond Conservation Area

a. Forest and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan - Keith Thompson will likely give us a draft by late June, which will coincide with review of the EPZ's (see next item). The Commission will conduct visits to proposed forest management sites in the PPCA.

b. EPZ's - The Vermont Land Trust, Keith, and the BCC are reviewing the boundaries of the Ecological Protection Areas to be better conform with conditions on the ground. The next field visit will occur on June 25. Jerry suggested inspecting the culvert just upstream of the trail crossing on the stream that drains into Preston Pond at the southeast end. The culvert may be inhibiting beaver habitat in that area. Steve stated that access to proposed forest management sites should not be overly restricted by the EPZ's. Winter logging may be an option here.

- c. Trail work plan - Eagle Scout candidate Jack Landis from Richmond will install the boardwalk on the section of trail above Preston Pond early in the summer (materials costs covered by the Vermont Recreational Trails Grant, in-kind match in the form of volunteer hours). The Stewards group will take care of replacing planks in the two VYCC bridges as well as placing new trail signposts at either end of the new cut-off trail. Leslie Pelch is volunteering to update the trail map through updated GPS data and added features (including a grid). The new map will be available on the Bolton website, a QR Code at the trailhead, as well as durable paper maps that can be replaced and reused at either trailhead kiosk.
- d. 911 trailhead signage - The Commission would like the road crew to install them. Thank you!

6. Website responsibilities

Jerry is willing to learn how to post information to the Town's website. Lars will review meeting minutes and send to Amy L. to post, with Jerry as a back-up. Amy will send notes to on posting to Jerry and he will talk to Amy G. about how to post.

7. Old business

- a. Wheeler Field update - Lars updated the Commission on ongoing discussions with Jeff Brown about the potential development of the 22 acre parcel. Lars, Jen Dudley-Girard, and Tony Barbagallo are in the loop. Jeff Brown is willing to entertain proposals to set aside some public space.

8. New Business

Virginia Haviland would like to join the CC. We'd like to have her! She lives on the South side of the river, and is interested in conservation issues. She'll send a request to the SelectBoard to be appointed.

Next meeting: The Commission will need to reschedule it's regularly scheduled meeting on July 20. It will take the form of a field walk at various town parcels, including the Sara Holbrook property, the Fisher property, and the Potholes. We tentatively chose August 3. We need at least four members to attend. Fall dates were confirmed: Sept. 21 and Nov. 16.

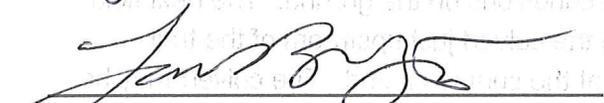
All actions were subject to motions and approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Ludwin and Lars Botzjoorns

These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Conservation Commission on:

August 1, 2015.


Lars Botzjoorns, Chair, For the Board