

Bolton Conservation Commission  
August 3, 2015  
Bolton Town Office and other locations

Minutes

**Members present:** Lars Botzjoorns (chair), Steve McLeod, Amy Ludwin, Ali Kosiba

**Member absent:** Jerry Mullen, Virginia Haviland

The meeting came to order at the town office at 6:05 p.m.

1. **Minutes of the June 1, 2015 meeting.** Approved as written.

2. **Field walks**

- a. **Bolton Potholes** - The site visit encountered little trash beyond cigarette butts. Someone was camping just above the upper pothole. The informal access trail on the eastern bank is well worn but not eroded in most places. Conversation touched on the fact that access has shifted to the Smilie School parking lot, and there has been sentiment from the school staff that it is less than desirable at times given issues with sanitation, trash, and noise. Recent email correspondence from Lydia Menendez of the Vermont River Conservancy to Lars indicated that the landowners of the access on the Bolton Valley Access road are interested in selling the land. As with previous conversations with the VRC, their participation in protecting access to the Potholes would be predicated by the town's commitment to more active management of the area.
- b. **Fisher property** - This 1.2 acre town parcel on Route 2 is currently mainly open field. It appears to have somewhat wet soils at low points. There are no proposals for specific uses of the property, although the concept of a solar farm has been suggested in the past. There is the question whether development of the parcel for solar energy production would be consistent with FEMA rules. Otherwise, it was noted that birds preferring open fields (e.g., bobolink) may find nesting habitat here (as well as the adjacent open four acre parcel). Any mowing of the parcel should be sensitive to potential nest-sites and delayed as much as possible until later in the summer.
- c. **Sara Holbrooke property / Long Trail bridge** - the site visit followed the access road to the bridge. None of the members present were confident of identifying any invasive species on-site (pending guidebook review). Ali had noted extensive fiddlehead harvesting in the spring, however the ostrich ferns were relatively plentiful at this time. Discussion noted the poor sight-distance at the southern end of the bridge and the accompanying pull-off. Lars will contact the GMC.

3. **Next meeting agenda** - Preston Pond management plan, Friends of the Winooski floodplain restoration program, Winooski River floodplain inventory plan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lars Botzjoorns

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

Sept. 21, 2015

  
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Lars Botzjoorns, Chair, For the Board