

Bolton Conservation Commission  
Monday, October 27, 2014  
Bolton Town Office

Unofficial Minutes

**Present:**Lars Botzjorns (chair), Amy Ludwin, Ken Remsen, Larissa Urban, Steve McLeod  
**Guests:**Jens Hilke & Ali Kosiba

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**1. Minutes of the September 15, 2014 meeting** - accepted as written.

**2. Final Tiered Ecological Priorities Map**

Jens Hilke, VTDF&W, presented a third draft of the map with changes made to coverage in the secondary conservation area. The wildlife corridors were restricted to undeveloped roadside and 300 foot buffers, rather than ¼ mile buffers. The new corridor designations still connect core habitat units. Jens cautioned that field truthing corridors over a short time frame (e.g. two years) will not necessarily indicate their importance to certain species (which may use them on a generational basis). In addition early succession and grassland habitat was removed from specific consideration in Bolton. The result is 34% as primary conservation priority (much of it high elevation and already in public ownership, in addition to 50' buffers along all stream corridors and wetlands ), 17 % as secondary conservation priority (where fragmentation should be minimized by clustering any development), and 45% as tertiary conservation priority. The remaining 4% of the town's land area is already developed (including a 100' envelope around any building).

The next steps are to present the Map (in digital and paper form) to the Planning Commission at their December meeting, when the Natural Resources section of the town plan will next be discussed. Lars will ask the PC if they want Jens to attend and will inform Jens of the date. Jens will provide a summary of how data maps were put together. He can also help with Town Plan language, if requested by the PC. The Map itself may be more useful to the DRB than to PC.

**3. Forest Pest Detection**

Notch Road resident Ali Kosiba introduced herself as Bolton's Forest Pest Detector and explained some of the forest pests that may threaten Bolton's trees now or in the future. Among them are the emerald ash borer (mainly transported by humans), Asian long-horned beetle, and hemlock woody adelgid. Vermont is trying to be proactive so they can control invasive insects through early detection versus quarantine. Ali suggested the town plan should address contingencies for an infestation. The BCC can help Ali coordinate outreach in Bolton (the State has good information), possibly in association with pest detectors in surrounding towns. Ali will publish info in the spring issue of the Bolton Gazette and FPF, when the beetles are hatching for the year. Amy will work on adding links to the BCC page on the town website.

**4. Town GIS parcel map three year update - request for funds**

The Select Board is asking town boards to help pay for the tri-annual update of the town parcel maps (total cost for update is \$450) The PC is willing to put in \$225, with the BCC providing the remaining \$225 out of the current FY budget (\$500). Steve moved the BCC to provide \$225, Amy seconded, all approved.

## 5. FY 2016 budget request

All agreed the BCC should request level funding in FY 2016 (\$500). Amy recommended additional trailhead information at Preston Pond, including a kiosk at Stage Road and reusable trail maps, which should be accomplished within the existing budget allocation and/or the Vermont Trails grant.

## 6. Town Plan revision

Lars will work with PC chair Linda Baker on a full draft or a revised natural resources section prior to the December meeting of the PC. After draft is completed, the BCC will have a chance for input at our January, 2015 meeting. Steve offered written input for Bolton Plan as well as forestry/forestry resources and recreation.

The Commission brainstormed a list of high priority conservation issues: limit wind towers and high elevation development; promote habitat connectivity; protect water quality in Bolton's water courses; protect and restore floodplain forests and buffer zones.

## 7. Old Business

**a. Community Clean-up Fund- CSWD fund:** No news from Duncan Galbraith on the Route 2 property. The funds accumulate from year to year. Steve will confirm the request for projects in the Bolton Gazette.

**b. Preston Pond Conservation Area:** A Volunteer Steward group will form to take on the various duties of the position, which Quinn Keating is vacating. Lars will develop a list of talking points for public outreach and basic trail maintenance needs that volunteers can use. Any volunteer steward should be familiar with the management plan for the property. Lars will follow up with Boy Scout leaders from Waterbury and Richmond to inspect possible trail projects. The Commission identified several people who frequent the PPCA as possible members of the Stewards group. Lars will contact them.

**c. Joiner Brook action plan** - no developments since the last meeting.

**Other business:** Ali will submit a request to the Select Board to join the BCC. Lars will let the SB know.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larissa Urban and Lars Botzjorns