

## Bolton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

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Date: Monday, March 18, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Bolton Town Office

Members Present: Lexie Haselton (Chair), Lars Botzjorns, Amy Ludwin, Kathleen Costello, Ken Remsen, Larissa Urban

- Lexie presented the Select Board with 4 Conservation Commission Letters of Resignation and 6 Letters of Interest. The Select Board agreed to release the 4 members wishing to resign and to appoint Ken Remsen, Kathleen Costello, Amy Ludwin, Larissa Urban, Lars Botzjorns and Amanda Caron to the Conservation Commission.
- Update on ECOS Grant through the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC). The towns of Bolton, Richmond, Jericho and Huntington were awarded the ECOS Grant, which is effective for one year and will be completed in December 2013. This grant is to provide our town and the Uplands region with data on wildlife inventory and other natural resource information that is useful in town planning.

Interviews will take place next week to hire a part-time Outreach Coordinator to coordinate the work of the 4 towns. The salary for this position is \$2,850.

Arrowood Environmental is the contracted organization collecting data on the project. A public meeting will be scheduled for April 2013 to share information on the project.

Amy will support Lexie in taking the lead on the Ecos Project.

CC updated the Select Board on ECOS Project. If the public wants more information they should be directed to contact the CC. Additionally it was decided that communication between town boards on this issue should be sent via their respective chairs to Deb via email and Deb will disseminate information to all committees of interest.

45 minutes was spent on this topic with 6 members participating.

- Scope of Conservation Commission discussed. Lars asked that CC members who are unable to follow through on an assignment let him know so that the task can be re-delegated and the project can move forward.

Bolton Potholes: The CC was approached by the VT Rivers Conservancy (VRC) in March 2012 regarding management issues and conservation of public access to the

Potholes. This was initiated by information that the current private landowner is selling their access to the Bolton Potholes. Kathy will contact Lydia @ VRC to inquire about status of this project. Lexie will give contact info to Kathy.

Management Plan for Preston Pond: A sub-committee has been actively working on revising the management plan for Preston Pond. A topographic map of the Preston Pond trail system is now available on the town website.

Bolton Valley Backcountry Purchase: Since this property is now owned by the State of Vermont, the CC would like to have a member be a liaison with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation on management issues related to this parcel and other state forestlands in Bolton.

Conservation Fund: Members expressed their concerns about the use of the Fund to supplement FEMA funding for purchase of the Fisher property on Route 2. The Conservation Commission was not consulted by the Selectboard on this project. The intent when the Fund was established (and which is reinforced by vote at Town Meeting each year) is to have the Commission be consulted by the Selectboard. Lars will relay this concern to the SB. Lexie stated that an application form exists to facilitate review of projects seeking funds (such as the recent purchase of Upper West Bolton by CRAG-VT).

➤ Meeting Conversations:

Introduction to the Select Board: Lars will contact the Select Board to be on their Agenda in the near term to reestablish close working relations with the SB.

There was consensus among all members present to change our meeting schedule from 4 times/year to bi-monthly (6 times/year). We will meet at 6:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November. This motion was set by Lars and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy.

➤ Chairperson Change: Lexie motioned to appoint Lars as Chair of the Bolton Conservation Commission. Kathy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All were in favor. Thank you Lars!