

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC) Minutes

April 8, 2021
6:00 pm Zoom*

In attendance: Carolyn Dash, Chair (CD), Kristen Underwood, Vice Chair (KU), Zelig Smith (ZS), Alex Smith (AS), Jono Chapin (JC), Helen Young (HY)

Absent: Melanie Lloyd, Dave Rosen

Members of the Public: Alex Mihavics, Jim Quaglino, Neat TV filming

I Call to order: 6:00 pm

Meeting was called to order at 6:02

II Public Comment Period

Jim Quaglino asked where the upper notch rd dump site was- discussed that the idea is that game cameras will be put up and it will be protrolled more regularly by law enforcement. The police are looking through the dumped garbage for identifying information. Jim Quaglino suggested that in some cases older people are paying younger people to take trash to the dump who instead are dumping it elsewhere.

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

No added items to the agenda

IV Review and approval of minutes from Mar 11

AS makes motion. KU seconds. approved.

V Correspondence

None this week

VI Old Business

A. Conservation Commission Membership:

- a. Welcome Helen Young as an official member
- b. Updates on membership
 - i. Melanie Lloyd is coming back soon, perhaps next month. Another community member is interested in coming after sugaring season. A few others are possibilities

B. Bristol Trail Network (BTN)- spring updates?

- a. Due to mud, members of the BTN had asked that the community stay off the trails. HY reports that she visited the trails and noticed that they are now well drained.
- b. no planned spring event as of yet
- c.

C. Parks Updates: Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access- any updates?

Alex Mihavics reported from the rec dept that normal spring maintenance at the parks is underway: benches at sycamore needed repair, Memorial park sign is partially down and needs

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fixing, will be fixed by the rec dept next week. They are expecting increased use of the parks as the weather gets better

- a. Sycamore Park updates
 - i. parking lot- gravel added, getting an assessment for how much more is needed to avoid the mud patches
 - ii. litter was removed from Sycamore Park
 - b. Universal Fishing Platform updates
 - i. Dave Henderson and Valerie Capels and KU met at the park and are going to use conservation reserve funds to pay the original engineer to coordinate repairs and do mitigation. They will get a cost estimate next week and on April 26 they will bring the proposal and estimate to the Select Board for approval
 - ii. KU reports a sizable FEMA reimbursement- 75% of estimate will come from FEMA, the state contributes 12.5%, the rest will have to be funded on a local level.
- D. Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Planning Committee:** update from liaison/chair
- a. Alex Mihavics reports that the committee had a presentation to Select Board with a summary of what they have been working on. The next step is to do a public info session in late april/early may. It will be a Q&A about what is happening with the trees both on public land and on private land. It will be a zoom meeting with powerpoint.
 - i. Because the last data collection was done in winter, a more accurate assessment will be made after green up- community members are starting to reach out about their trees. The info is not yet available to the public, but will be as part of the Q&A session
- E. Illegal Dumping:**
- a. illegal dumping of cat litter, a community member asked if someone could do it for greenup day
 - b. no updates on the notch road dump site
 - c. discussion about bringing bristol pond dumping spot to the attention of the police- Jim Quaglino says it is state access and Dale Whitlock the game warden can be contacted about that- AS to contact and discuss
 - i. Contact information provided by Jim Quaglino:
New Haven police: 388-4919 Dale Whitlock's direct line:7776269
- F. Website:** updates made
CD reports that HY's name has been added to the website, the new positions have been updated and when the terms end has been updated. CD added the winter scavenger hunt to the website for community use.
- G. Green Up Day 5/1/21:** planning updates for our second socially distanced GUD
CD reports that bags were dropped off at various locations, library, Red Cedar, BES, and holley hall
- a. The Rec Dept is putting up posters

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- b. CD received coupons for donuts and beverages, which are being passed to the hub because they cannot be used this year due to covid restrictions.
 - c. CD will do front porch forum posts to get the word out
 - d. last year was a much smaller year, so looking for an increase in participation this year despite not having the big park event
 - e. CD to contact New Haven Anglers- they sometimes get various high school sports teams involved.
- H. **Edith Stock Trust-** updates from SB meeting
- a. Edith Stock was a long time resident of bristol who left a sizable chunk of money to care for the birds of bristol. George Vince had been in charge of this fund, there is a small amount left that is being given to the BCC for conservation use
 - b. KU reports that the Select Board will hang on to the money but it is available to the BCC- though we will need to get Select Board approval for purchases
 - c. The BCC will research about the Edith Stock Trust to better understand the funds and her wishes so that we can use it appropriately
 - d. George Vince dropped off the birdhouses that go with the trust to JC who will store them
- I. **Lewis Creek Association presentation:** debrief
- a. well attended and appreciated, no action needed.
- J. **Town Plan 2020:** Discussion of BCC's role in achieving the goals, policies, and implementation actions outlined in the plan
- a. The BCC went through the goals and policies in the (publicly available) town plan, noted which sections we are expected to be involved with and discussed how we are addressing them, and how we will in the future.
 - b. HY interested in controlling japanese knotweed. A group in the ADKs is working on removal- some has been worked on in Bristol before in locations where the plants were small and could be effectively manually removed. It is much harder to remove when it is mature. It has been previously decided by the BCC that it is not feasible for this group with current technology to be able to remove from the public spaces. HY to get more information from the ADK group about their methods.
 - c. Kristen to find management plans for us to go over and discuss at next meeting also creating educational materials

VII New Business

Maintenance is needed in the perennial garden at Eagle Park. BCC will meet at the park at 9 AM on May 8 to work on the garden.

VIII Events

IX Next Meeting: May 13, 2020

The BCC will go over the management plans that will be sent around by KU.

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X Adjournment

Motion by KU. Seconded by AS. Adjournment approved at 7:30.

Join Zoom Meeting

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