

## **Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC) Minutes**

May 13, 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 (AM), Jim Quaglino, Neat TV filming

### **I Call to order: 6:00 pm**

The BCC meeting was called to order at 6:02 by CD

### **II Public Comment Period**

none

### **III Addition of Items to the Agenda**

Operating budget

### **IV Review and approval of minutes from April 8**

AS made motion, HY young second

### **V Correspondence**

None

### **VI Old Business**

#### **A. Conservation Commission Membership:**

- a. Updates on membership
  - i. Melanie Lloyd and Dave Rosen still intend to return once in person meetings are reinstated. Still looking for one more member.

#### **B. Bristol Trail Network (BTN)-**

- a. No Updates

#### **C. Parks Updates:**

- a. Eagle Park update: Clean up of the perennial gardens was done by members of the BCC on 5/1
  - i. At the 4/26 Selectboard meeting they voted to authorize a short term repair to the universal fishing platform- Dock Doctors would re-level the platform and backfill the ramp so that it is functional for those who need it during the summer. The Selectboard will be pursuing the mitigation funding from fema to redesign the platform for improved flood resiliency. The engineer has been going through options with Valerie Capels.
  - ii. KU is pursuing getting an estimate to move stone.
  - iii. will discuss with Dock Doctors, John Heffernan (Pecker), and the engineer to determine the sequence of fixing.
  - iv. HY asked if we are liable if someone gets hurt- KU will pursue getting an answer to that question.
- b. Memorial Park update: The entry sign was fixed

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- c. Sycamore Park Update:
  - i. Tables at the pull off near the park were being used elsewhere but there was a request for them to be returned to the pull off, one of them has been.
  - ii. Portelette is going back in for the summer. It is scheduled to be in place starting May 28 and taken down on Sept 28. AM checks in on the park and portelette on fridays though these are managed by the portelette company.
  - iii. CD had someone ask about parking lot potholes- Parks and Rec is already getting an opinion on whether or not added gravel will fix it or if it needs to be re-graded. Parks and Rec are getting John Heffernan (Peeker) to take a look at it and determine what is needed.
  - iv. As a result of a heavy rain this spring, the dirt path was washed out, AM said he is unsure whether or not stone steps may need to be put in but a solution is being discussed
- d. Saunders River Access update:
  - i. KU (the site manager) received an email from the Vermont River Conservancy to do a walk though, which they do once a year. They will contact KU and arrange that.
  - ii. There are new owners in two houses that touch the property- KU suggested that we should be in touch with those owners so that they understand the use of the property

### **D. Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Planning Committee:** update from liaison/chair AM

- a. The planning committee had a public information session meeting during which they talked about the basics of the ash borer and tree management plan. The slides are on the web page on the town site
- b. the next step is to wait until the leaves are fully out to reassess the state of the trees and update the management plan
- c. The committee is working on getting grant funding
- d. The committee will take down a handful of trees this year. Only the worst ones will be removed and that process will be repeated yearly.

### **E. Illegal Dumping Sites:** Upper Notch, Bristol Pond, etc.

- a. CD talked to Sergeant Michael Elmore. He reported that one of the game cameras used to patrol these sites was stolen which is slowing the process. The Notch road sites are on the open case list
- b. CD asked Elmore about the Bristol Pond dumping site and he said he would add it to the open case list. Elmore thinks it is a currently increasing problem and is unsure what is causing the illegal dumping uptick. Elmore expressed interest in talking to Alex Smith about a Backcountry Hunters and Anglers clean up session. CD will put AS and Michael Elmore in contact.
- c. BCC discussed various methods of how to reach people through education or signs. Parks and Rec put signs up at Sycamore to prevent litter- yet to be seen how it works

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### **F. Website:**

- a. ZS is the new clerk and got the minutes posted for the first time last months

### **G. Green Up Day 5/1/21:**

- a. 472 empty bags picked up this year, which is way more than usual However, only .59 tons of trash were picked up which is far less than usual. Perhaps people took more bags than usual or perhaps there was less garbage along the side of the road.
- b. Addison county picked up 12.6 tons.
- c. BES and Red Cedar School both participated

### **H. Edith Stock Trust-**

- a. No update

### **I. Town Plan 2020:**

- J. The Planning Commission requested that we continue discussion of BCC's role in achieving the goals, policies, and implementation actions outlined in the plan.
  - a. BCC went through forms sent by Kevin Hanson. determined priority level and commented on actions being taken and progress made
    - i. discussed connecting with middlebury college because they are looking for projects to get students involved in the community.

### **K. Management Plans for Town Parks-**

- a. These will take a few months for the BCC to complete. For now we will prioritize parks that do not have a plan at all. Sycamore park and Saunders River Access both have plans that are acceptable so will go to the end of the list. BCC will start with Memorial Park and then Eagle Park.
  - i. BCC needs to make inventories about wild life- could be a community project
  - ii. Should have signs about no overnight stays at all the parks- dawn to dusk use
  - iii. For the next BCC meeting everyone will read over the memorial park management plan and think about which part each member would like to volunteer to assist with. These are meant to be living documents as issues are identified and solved.

## **VII New Business**

- a. The fiscal year is ending at the end of June, the BCC needs to ensure that we are using the allocated budget.
- b. CD will determine how much money is left in the budget this year
- c. KU suggested that if we have leftover money we could financially assist Parks and Rec with one of their projects. AM said that he would come up with potential options for parks and rec projects that we could use our funds to assist with.
- d. Everyone should think about ideas this month and bring them to the next meeting.

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**VIII Events**

**IX Next Meeting: June 10, 2020**

**X Adjournment**

KU makes motion, Jono second 7:29