

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC) Minutes

July 8, 2021

6:00 pm

Location: Outside at the Rec Club pavilion

Members Present: Carolyn Dash, Chair (CD), Kristen Underwood, Vice Chair (KU), Zelie Smith (ZS), Alex Smith (AS), Helen Young (HY), Dave Rosen (DR)

Members of the Public: Alex Mihavics (AM), Jenny Sogin (JS)

I Call to order:

The BCC meeting for July 8th was called to order at 6:06 PM

II Public Comment Period

No members of the public commented

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

No additional Items were added to the agenda

IV Review and approval of minutes from June 10

AS made a motion to approve the minutes from June 10th. The motion was seconded by DR and the motion was passed.

V Correspondence

There were no new correspondences this month.

VI Old Business

A. Conservation Commission Membership:

- a. There is one official spot open at the moment

B. Bristol Trail Network (BTN)

- a. Jenny Sogin (JS), BTN intern summer 2021, the BCC took a conference call with JS to discuss her progress on the perennial garden in Sycamore park. The information provided by JS during the conference call was:
 - i. The plants were purchased and the receipts were submitted
 - ii. The plants chosen were ten different varieties of native plants that are beneficial for pollinators.
 - iii. JS is creating a sign that explains the pollinator garden that will be placed near the pathway and will say what is in each plot. This information is also to be posted on the rec department webpage. JS is creating a PDF to give to AM, which he will post on the sycamore park webpage within the rec department website
- b. There are currently two large piles of mulch in the parking area that need to be relocated and spread along the interpretive trail.
- c. Porter Knight asked for a letter of support for a grant proposal from the BCC- The BCC unanimously approved

C. Parks Updates:

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- a. Sycamore-
 - i. AM reports that he visited JS when she was planting and saw others helping- the piles of mulch are in the parking area, The mulch will need to be moved with a vehicle to a new location.
 - ii. The list for the upcoming sycamore park workday (to be scheduled) is as follows:
 - 1. Replace bird boxes and posts marked with yellow tape (5 posts needed – AS has them) (6 Bird boxes needed – Jono has them)
 - a. Tools needed: Posthole digger, screw gun, screws and about 6 inches of 1by4 per post (can be scrap)
 - 2. Replace cork on the kiosk/bulletin board
 - a. Need new cork and probably some new push pins
 - 3. Restock brochures
 - a. Need to print new ones or color copy
 - 4. Cut back invasive Japanese Knotweed on trails (flagged with red)
 - a. Must cut at base using loppers or machete as opposed to pull by roots
 - 5. Remove large logs x3 from trail between marker #3 and #4
 - a. Need Chainsaw and someone to wield it safely ☺
 - 6. Help finish spreading mulch around the new pollinator garden & any other related tasks as assigned by Jenny
 - iii. It was agreed that we would have one workday to start with and see what kind of volunteer help is needed after that.
 - b. Universal Fishing Platform and Ramp
 - i. KU reported that valerie applied for an extension for the FEMA reimbursement to allow for more time to fix the platform
 - c. Town Green
 - i. Select Board is working on getting two green garbage bins put on the town green to prevent litter. Bins have been there in the past but the town contracted garbage collection often missed those bins but should be an easy to solve problem.
- D. Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Planning Committee:**
 - a. AM reported that EAB is in the flight season now so it is recommended not to take down trees at the moment unless necessary for safety reasons. The town recently had to remove a tree from North Street. AM said that the wood from that tree did not look terribly infested so he is hopeful that that did not spread too many of the EAB. Flight season is June-September so there are no anticipated changes until September.
 - b. AM reports that the grant was submitted in the end of june
- E. Website:** updates on the explore Bristol

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- a. AM would like to add winter recreation and fishing options to the Explore Bristol document he is working on. AM is gathering recommendations for fishing areas around Bristol.

F. Edith Stock Trust-

- a. AS acquired cedar posts for the bird house replacement in sycamore park. AS still needs to submit receipts.
- b. ZS will contact the person who manages the apple trees in sycamore park and learn what they do each year and how much it costs so that the BCC can discuss what to do going forward.

G. Memorial Park Management Plan discussion

- a. HY reported that she visited Memorial park and did not see any invasive species
- b. HY volunteered to take a tree inventory
- c. CD reported that she is planning a park walkthrough with Middlebury College professor Alexis Mychajliw. CD is hoping to encourage Mychajliw to work with her students on taking a mammal inventory of Memorial Park.
- d. others to continue working on sections
- e. AM sent KU information about current issues
- f. AS & ZS to contact KU with information on current use and passive open space.
- g. BCC Homework: look at sections D, E & F for next time
- h. The BCC agreed that that fire pit by the parking area should be taken away and replaced with something like a kiosk for more information. The BCC would like to discourage fires anywhere in the park.
- i. There is rebar on the trails and by the firepit that needs to be addressed.
- j. Members of the BCC believe that the park is not well marked and once it is a safer place to visit this should be addressed.

H. Water Quality Project Partnership-

Members of the BCC received a letter from Maddison Shropshire. KU reported that in the state of Vermont under act 76 there are going to be requirements for clean water service providers- all conservation commissions received a letter informing members that the Addison county regional planning commission is a clean water service provider. No current action from the BCC is required.

I. Lewis Creek Association-

- a. ZS reports that with their Tactical Basin Planning Support grant the LCA has made a plan for outreach, education, and partnerships with towns and local interested parties. For the BCC this means that LCA wants the BCC to help host presentations at least once a year and provide outreach materials to town properties. In other words they want to create an ongoing partnership in which the LCA and BCC work together on common water management plans.

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J. Next meeting location

- a. August meeting is canceled; the next meeting will be on September 9th at the Rec Club Pavillion.

IX Next Meeting: September 9, 2020

For this meeting the BCC members will look at sections D C and F of the memorial park plan draft so they may be discussed and worked on during that meeting.

X Adjournment

The July 8th BCC meeting was adjourned at 7:22. A motion to adjourn was made by KU. The motion was seconded by AS and the motion passed.