

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)

Minutes

Oct 13, 2022

6:00 pm

Location: Holley Hall conference room and on Zoom

Members Present: Carolyn Dash, Chair, (CD), Kristen Underwood, Vice Chair, (VC), Alex Smith (AS), Zelig Smith (ZS), Helen Young (HY), Jono Chapin (JC), Nancy Morrison (NM)

Members of Public: Freddie Cannon (FC), Jim Quaglino (JQ)

I Call to order: 6:00 pm at Holley Hall

The October 13, 2022 meeting of the Bristol Conservation Commission was called to order at 6:01PM.

II Public Comment Period

A member of the public suggested that the disk golf project at Sycamore Park not go forward. He is concerned that putting man made structures in an otherwise natural environment would go against the conservation commission's mission.

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

One new item added: Discuss how to proceed with adding parts of discussions and public comments into the minutes.

IV Review and approval of minutes from July, Sept 2022 meetings

KU made a motion to approve the minutes for July 2022 and to approve the amended minutes for September 2022. AS seconded the Motion. The motion passed and the minutes for July and the amended minutes for September were approved.

V Correspondence

A member of the public who was present at the September meeting wrote a few members of the BCC to suggest that more of the discussion be added into the written minutes

VI Old Business

A. Conservation Commission Membership-

- a. Dave Rosen resigned from the BCC. This leaves two seats available.

B. Parks Updates: Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access- updates

- a. Discussion lead by Meredith McFarland on potential disc golf course at Sycamore
 - i. Meredith McFarland was unable to join so the discussion about the disk golf course was tabled until March.
- b. **Introductions and discussion with new Rec Dept colleague**
 - i. The BCC was joined by Freddie Cannon, the new Rec coordinator, Freddie Cannon joined the Bristol Recreation Department a little over a month ago. He previously worked at the boys and girls club. Welcome Freddie!

C. Parks Updates:

For Freddie's benefit the BCC ran through park updates and added information about what the BCC is involved in at each park .

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- a. **Eagle:** KU reported that FEMA has approved funding to make the repairs to the universal fishing platform. Dock doctors have been authorized to make repairs and are fitting it into their schedule. This fall leveling of the platform will be done and other repairs will wait until the next construction season. FC is interested in spreading the word to other communities about the a/c access of the fishing platform.
- b. **Memorial:** The BCC updated FC about the bridge safety issues at memorial park and fund raising for repairs.
- c. **Sycamore:** The BCC brought FC up to date on the work the BCC does at Sycamore. HY reported that the perennial garden is looking good and will continue to spread and fill in as the years go on. Still in need of rain barrels.
- d. **Saunders River Access:** The BCC told FC about the uses of Saunders, that the park is mainly for stormwater management and is used lightly by anglers, hikers, and horseback riders.

D. Wildlife tracking-

- a. A member of the public present at last month's meeting feels that deer should be included on the list of animals tracked as they are a species closely observed by many members of the public. The six major species discussed at last month's meeting were otters, moose, bear, fisher, mink and bobcat. The BCC all agreed to keep deer in mind as the project moves forward.
- b. The BCC received a proposal from Sophie Mazowita. She offered a list of things that could be done and the pricing.
- c. CD talked to a Middlebury College mammalogist, Alexis Mychajliw. Mychajliw wants to come talk about the project and get students involved. CD will coordinate with Mychajliw and invite her to attend a meeting in the near future.
- d. Use of hunters was discussed again. Using things like game cameras that are already out. The BCC discussed how it would go about coordinating community members and gathering information. This would need to be a plan rolled out for next year.
- e. The BCC discussed funding for this project. It was brought up that perhaps the project could be tackled piece by piece with smaller grants. In the next month the BCC will review the quote and talk next month about which of the tasks laid out are the most important or should happen first.

VII USGS Risk MAP-

- f. The Town received a letter from FEMA announcing a plan to update the floodplain map of the New Haven River from the confluence with Otter Creek to the confluence with Cody Brook. There is a report available but the BCC has been unable to access it. There is a month long community comment period. If KU is able to access the report she will send it to all members of the BCC. If for some reason the BCC wants to comment, we will decide by email to have a special

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meeting before our scheduled November meeting. The special meeting would be publicly announced.

VIII Management Plans

No current updates.

IX Minutes:

A member of the public who was present at September's meeting felt that more of the discussion should have been included in the minutes. The BCC discussed how to balance privacy while keeping the minutes both thorough and concise. The BCC decided to include a statement in the minutes from now on that a recording of the meeting can be found on the town website. CD will check with the selectboard about their protocol for the minutes and the BCC will discuss that at the next meeting.

X Events

- A. ACVV annual meeting- Saturday, October 15, 2022 8:30-3:30p.m in Fairlee, VT
- B. Lewis Creek Association summary meeting Oct 17, 7-7:30 PM Bristol and Monkton Pond

XI Next Meeting: November 10, 2022 at Holley Hall and on Zoom

XII Adjournment

AS made a motion to adjourn the meeting, NM seconded the motion. The motion passed and the October 2022 BCC meeting was adjourned at 7:12.

A recording of the entire meeting is available at <http://bristolvt.org/fy-2022-2023-meetings/>