

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)

Minutes

October 12, 2023

6:00 pm

Location: Holley Hall conference room with Zoom option

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

Members of the public: David Goldsmith, Jim Quaglino

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

The October 12th meeting of the BCC was called to order at 6:03PM

II Public Comment Period

None

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

None

IV Review and approval of minutes from Sept 14 meeting

JM made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14th meeting. NM seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes from the September BCC meeting were approved.

V Correspondence

None

VI Old Business

A. Conservation Commission Membership

- a. The BCC has one membership position open.

B. Updating wildlife maps

- a. Discussion of work completed by Sophie Mazowita
 - i. The BCC is very grateful to Sophie for all her work. Because Sophie mostly drove around and got out of the car in certain areas a lot of the information is road based. That may help look into wildlife crossing areas.
- b. Updates on David Goldsmith's work this semester thus far with Dr. Alexis Mychajliw (Middlebury College)
 - i. Goldsmith is a conservation biology super senior. For his independent research project this semester he will be putting up camera traps in Memorial and Sycamore parks.
 - ii. Goldsmith is putting the cameras up next week. There will be 10 cameras at Memorial Park and 6 cameras at Sycamore Park. He will run them for about 6 or 7 weeks. Goldsmith is debating how to share this information with the public.

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

- a. Continued discussion on accessible town parks (presented last month by Porter Knight).
 - i. The BCC is in favor of improved accessibility in the parks but must make sure that any changes are considered within the constraints of floodplain requirements, future maintenance funding, and conservation goals.
- b. Brainstorm ideal future park signage

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- i. The BCC will revisit this topic when Porter Knight is present at either the November or December meetings.
- c. Updates on gardens (Eagle Park, Sycamore Park)
 - i. Sycamore Park Pollinator Garden
 - 1. The pollinator garden needs maintenance. The fence is in bad shape and the garden is doing well but is quite messy. The BCC discussed taking down the fence and replacing it with signs and a non-fence boundary. Funds for signage could be taken from the Edith Stock Trust.
 - ii. Eagle Park dig up
 - 1. The construction for the universal fishing platform improvements is delayed, potentially until next year. This means that the perennials do not need to be moved this fall.
 - 2. The BCC has funds from the estate of Pete Deminico that could go to restoration of the garden there.
- d. Management plans:
 - i. ZS made a motion to approve the changes made to the management plan drafts and have the drafts sent to the selectboard for review and approval. JC seconded the motion. The motion passed and the management plan drafts will be sent to the selectboard.

VII New Business

A. Town Plan check-in

- a. The BCC is making progress towards many of our assigned goals in the 2020 town plan. The BCC reviewed the goals to determine how we are meeting those goals and which goals need more attention.

VIII Events

- A. Addison County Conservation Commission Summit Nov 4, 8:45-12:30 Holley Hall
- B.

IX Next Meeting: November 9 at 6:00pm, in Holley Hall conference room with Zoom option

X Adjournment

NM made a motion to adjourn the October 12th BCC meeting. HY seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32PM.