

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

### **Minutes**

April 11, 2024

6:00 pm

Location: Holley Hall conference room with Zoom option

**Members Present:** Zelig Smith, Kristen Underwood, Carolyn Dash, Helen Young, Jono Chapin,  
**Members of the Public:** Bailey Walker, Brian Lee, Jim Quaglino, Patricia Hunt

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

### **II Public Comment Period**

None

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

None

### **IV Review and approval of minutes from Feb 8, 2024** (no quorum in March 14, so no official minutes)

Helen Young made a motion to approve the minutes from Feb 8, 2024. Alex Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

### **V Correspondence**

None

### **VI Old Business**

#### **A. Wildlife project partnership with Middlebury College**

- a. Updates from S24 ENVS0401 students and their BCC mentor Alex Smith
  - i. Students Bailey Walker and Brian Lee updated the BCC on the camera trap results. Bobcats, deer, mink and river otter have been photographed. The students are working on a draft of a community report and a sample information pamphlet for the public.
- b. Discuss upcoming presentation and/or needs from students
  - i. The presentation will be about 30 minutes of information and 30 minutes of Q&A. The presentation will be May 9th at 6pm.

#### **B. Parks Updates: Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access, etc.**

- a. Accessibility kick off meeting is tomorrow. The BCC received a request from the Addison County River Watch Collaborative asking to take willow cuttings from The Saunders River Access for shoreline stabilization along the river in Middlebury. The BCC granted permission.
- b. **Sycamore**
  - i. no mow may
    1. Two BCC members walked around Sycamore Park with Meredith McFarland to discuss possible options for no mow may. The result from that was is that the landscaper will mow along the perimeter and leave sections of the center uncut as well as the front of the park. There will also be a mowed picnic area.
    - ii. The apple trees were pruned but there are two larger ones that still need pruning.
- c. Discussion of frisbee golf with Meredith McFarland
  - i. Due to technical issues, this topic was deferred until the next meeting.

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- d. Sycamore workday/site visit debrief (deferred to April)
    - i. Pollinator garden
      - 1. will be weeded by interns.
  - e. Plan a Sycamore park work day
    - i. There is not a current to-do list for Sycamore park. The BCC will focus on work days for eagle park for the time being.
  - f. Eagle park garden planning and scheduling based on site photos
    - i. The platform has been repaired and a new ramp has been poured. Boulders have been replaced around the perimeter of the parking area. Kristen Underwood will be meeting with the contractors tomorrow to determine the location of the split rail fence around the parking area. The perennial garden will be much smaller because the ramp was widened and the fence is being put in. It is possible that the perennial garden should be moved to a different location in the park.
- C. **No Mow May 24**: final planning updates and field site debrief (deferred to April)
- a. Will ask Nancy Morrison about signs.
- D. **Green Up Day is May 4<sup>th</sup>**: final planning updates
- a. Meredith McFarland will help host a box of bags and gloves on the porch of holley hall for a week before Green Up Day. The BCC will have a table from 8am-12pm on the day of the event. The schools will receive gloves and bags a week before the event.
- E. **Vulnerability Mapping Index**: new tool release
- a. deferred to next month
- F. **Conservation Commission Membership**:
- a. The BCC has a vacancy for 1 member

## **VII New Business**

- A. **Budget** updates- debrief meeting with new treasurer and discuss allocations
  - a. There is a new town treasurer, Carolyn Dash had a meeting with the new treasurer. There is much the BCC did not know about the organization of our finances. The new treasurer is interested in keeping the BCC abreast of the goings on in various accounts the BCC has access to and providing account numbers so the money is easier to access. There is some debate about what the BCC budget should be. The budget seems to have changed from \$350 to \$200 but there is no record the BCC could find of the Select Board deciding on this change and the BCC is currently receiving a \$300 budget, which does not match either number. The Vice-Chair position for the BCC will now be the liaison with the treasurer so that the finances are more organized in the future.

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**B. Annual meeting (deferred to April):**

- a. Helen Young made a motion to elect Carolyn Dash as the BCC Chair, Alex Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed. Carolyn Dash will remain in the position of BCC Chair.
  - b. Alex Smith made a motion to elect Jono Chapin as Vice-Chair, Helen young seconded the motion. The motion passed and Jono Chapin will remain as the Vice-Chair.
  - c. Zelig Smith made a motion that Helen Young be elected as the BCC Clerk, Jono Chapin seconded the motion. The motion passed and Helen Young will be the new BCC Clerk.
- C. Liaisons:** seek members to volunteer as liaisons with other committees/offices
- a. Vice chair will be the treasurer liaison. Kristen Underwood volunteers to be the select board liaison for the BCC.

**VIII Events**

Green up day May 4th,

**IX Next Meeting:** meeting dedicated to Middlebury Wildlife Presentations from 6-7 and a short business portion on May 9 at 6:00pm will be in the Holley Hall conference room with a Zoom option.

**X Adjournment**

Jono Chapin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alex Smith seconded. The motion passed and the April meeting of the BCC was adjourned at 7:43pm.

**A recording of the entire meeting is available at <http://bristolvt.org/fy-2023-2024-meetings/>**