

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)

Minutes

Feb 8, 2024

6:00 pm

Location: Holley Hall conference room with Zoom option

Members Present: Helen Young, Nancy Morrison, Jono Chapin, John Merriman, Carolyn dash, Kristen Underwood, Alex Smith, Zelie Smith (arrived 6:30)

Members of the Public:

Jim Quaglino, David Goldsmith, Alexis Mychajliw, Meredith McFarland

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:01

II Public Comment Period

A member of the public asked that we advertise the meeting in more locations.

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

None

IV Review and approval of minutes from Jan 11, 2024 meeting

Kristen Underwood made a motion to approve the minutes. Nancy Morrison seconded. The motion passed and the minutes from the January 2024 meeting were approved.

V Correspondence

None

VI Old Business

A. Parks Updates: Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access, etc.

a. Conversation with Bristol Rec Department:

- i. Bristol Rec Dept Head Meredith McFarland came to the meeting to discuss park topics with the BCC.**
 1. There remain issues around No Mow May in the parks, including potential cost increases & knotweed. The rec dept is also concerned about potential safety with longer grass. The BCC discussed various options that could help with some of those potential issues, for instance, mowing only the edges of the open space for people to walk and also to keep the knotweed at bay.
 2. There is continued discussion around making a disc golf course at sycamore park. The rec dept will present the BCC with a proposed map of the course and may present it to the SB in April.
 3. Members of the BCC will meet privately with the rec dept for further discussions about No Mow May.
 4. The rec dept is considering providing affordable camping sites at select park locations.
 5. The BCC suggested using the Seth Hill property for that use.

b. Any park updates?

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- i. John Merriman and Kristen Underwood reviewed improved accessibility proposals. These proposals now go to the Selectboard. Potentially at this coming Monday's meeting.

B. Wildlife project partnership with Middlebury College

- a. Final presentation of David Goldsmith's study "Exploring the composition and activity of wildlife in the parks of Bristol, VT"
 - i. David shared his final reports with the BCC.
- b. Discussion of ENVS0401 course collaboration during S24
 - i. the class starts monday
 - ii. finalize mentors and review project proposal statement
 1. AS will be the main mentor for the meetings
 - iii. plan and determine guide for class field trip to Bristol parks
 1. March 7th, about an hour and 45 minutes for the students to explore the parks in Bristol. The BCC went over options for where the students might like to go.
- c. possible tracking educational training, pair with 401 course presentation?
 - i. The presentation by students would be about a 20 minute event. The BCC discussed having the students come to present this in our meeting so that it is available to the Bristol public. The BCC will reach out to see if there is any other group who wants to join during that day.
- d. The BCC asked Alexis if she has any ideas for a student or group who could work on creating a pamphlet that could be useful to landowners. This may be about rare/endangered species that could be present on local properties. This could also have information for how to maintain wildlife corridors on or around private property.

C. Operating budget: check-in

- a. Due to a vacancy in the position of town treasury there is some confusion about how much is left in the BCC budget. This will be determined at a later time. The Edith Stock fund has about \$4000 in it. The town just got a grant from Vermont Forest and Parks for \$50,000 to plant trees. The A johnson bequest is accruing interest so will not be used currently.

D. Green Up Day is May 4th: planning updates

- a. For the day, the BCC will get tables, no mow may signs, pass out bags and gloves. Bags will be at Holley Hall starting a week in advance as well as at a table on the town green on the day of. The BCC will provide the schools with gloves and bags.

E. Conservation Commission Membership:

- a. the BCC has a vacancy for 1 member

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VII New Business

none

VIII Events

None. Our March meeting is the annual meeting.

IX Next Meeting: March 14 at 6:00pm, the BCC Annual Meeting, will be in the Holley Hall conference room with a Zoom option.

X Adjournment

Jono Chapin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, AS seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

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