

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)

DRAFT Minutes

April 10, 2025

6:00 pm

Location: Holley Hall conference room (with a zoom option*)

I Call to order: 6:03 pm

Attending: Carolyn Dash, Roger Sullivan, Alex Smith (left at Item VII.E. - phone lost power), Kristen Underwood, Nancy Morrison (joined at Item VII.D).

Members of the public: Jim Quaglino, Nikki Belanger, Kieran Mulvaney, Aidan Lenihan

II Public Comment Period

None

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

None

IV Review and approval of minutes from March 13, 2025

Motion to approve – AS; 2nd – RS; Discussion: Revised motion to approve with recent edit communicated over email; Unanimous approval.

V Correspondence

Recent email correspondence re: wildlife tracking and Sue Morse (AS)

VI New Business

None

VII Old Business

A. BCC Membership

- a. Vacancies: the BCC has 2 vacancies it is hoping to fill.
Three interested persons have contacted CD in the last few weeks. Two are in attendance at this April meeting.
- b. Prospective members: introductions and discuss process
Bristol residents, Nikki Belanger and Kieran Mulvaney, introduced themselves and summarized their interest in joining the BCC. CD reviewed the process for applying (including form linked here: <https://bristolvt.org/07-application-for-volunteer-positions/>). Next steps will be an interview by the Selectboard.

B. Annual Meeting: vote on officers

KU motioned to table the item until the May meeting due to low attendance by current BCC members. AS 2nd. Passed unanimously.

C. Wildlife corridor project: discuss next steps

AS summarized accomplishments to date for new prospective members. For discussion at the May meeting, AS will work with Middlebury College student, Max, to mock up a wildlife management scenario for small-scale residential property that balances development with wildlife conservation. The BCC will go through all-a-carte cost proposal from Sophie Mazowita to select wildlife mapping/ planning tasks for next steps.

D. Timberlands Mult-Trail Partnership: discussion

JS reported that he has been in contact with Samatha Morrissey (Cool Motion Sports) representing the Partnership, and they confirmed a willingness to involve the BCC in review of proposals from trail design consultants. JS will reach out to the partnership team again now that he has returned from travels. KU noted that since our April meeting, the Partnership hosted a public information meeting (on 3/25) and distributed a survey; an article summarizing the proposed project has appeared in the Addison Independent and Ken Johnson issued a report to Front Porch Forum. KU reached out to Ken by phone on 3/14 to inquire if they would allow an ecological assessment of the Hogback property, coordinated and funded by the BCC. Ken respectfully declined, preferring to address the ecological values of the parcel as part of the trail design process that has recently gone out for bid. Ken confirmed that the Partnership is committed to following ecologically sustainable practices when developing the multi-trail resource, and they continue to welcome BCC input on the project.

E. Parks Updates: Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access, Seth Hill, etc.: updates and discussion

Aidan reporting:

Town Green: Lawn and tree maintenance has been completed, including lawn aeration and grass overseeding, filling of low spots, mulching and trimming of trees.

Eagle Park: Needs new picnic tables. Aidan will check in with Eric Cota about timing for replacing the railings on the Universal Fishing Platform. BCC will schedule **“Walk & Weed” event to identify maintenance needs, 5 – 5:45 PM, Thursday May 8.**

Sycamore Park: trash continues to be an issue – couple barrels full removed last week, including couple tires. Aidan and John Swepson (Tree Warden) will walk the park this spring - flag trees needing to be trimmed / removed. Knotweed clearing along paths. Parking lot will need grating/ aggregate.

Memorial Park – still closed; Rec Dept has received some calls recently requesting clarification of closure.

- a. Seth Hill field trip planning – CD contacted David Brynn and he is willing to host a field trip in May or June, suggesting we also invite Don Gale (lease-holder for maple taps). BCC identifies May 22 and May 29 at 5PM as possible dates. CD will check with David for his availability.
- b. Sycamore Park pruning debrief – apple trees were pruned on Wednesday, March 19 – Jono, Nancy, Carolyn, and others.

F. No Mow May: planning updates

Discussion around whether and how to continue “No Mow May” initiative. BCC finds consensus that formal activities this year will be limited to making “No Mow May” signs available to Bristol residents to place in their front lawns. NM will make signs available including at Green Up Day on the Town Green. Future years, may pivot to promoting pollinator gardens and best practices.

G. Green Up Day: planning updates

Saturday, May 3. CD is coordinator for Bristol; however, she has a scheduling conflict on the day. Meredith and Aidan from Bristol Rec Dept are not available. NM will pass out bags on the Town Green on the morning of May 3 (8am – Noon); Nikki volunteers to join her. CD will complete other coordination tasks prior to May 3 (e.g., delivering bags to Bristol Elementary School; announcements to FPF; receiving and distributing bags at town hall). Aidan will help put up posters around town.

Trash is due out by dusk on Sunday March 4. Road crew picks up bags early on Monday March 5. The Bristol Rec Dept will have green-up bags available for the public starting April 23.

H. Education outreach: continue discussion

Tabled to future meeting (Zellie absent)

I. Website: updated

CD reported that website has been updated with latest Annual Report, and current information regarding membership with help from Town Administrator. RS notes that the Zoom link to our BCC meeting is incorrect when accessed through the calendar on the website; some members of the public may attempt this path to link to the meeting. CD will check with Town Admin to resolve.

VIII Events

IX Next Meeting: The BCC meeting the second Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm in Holley Hall with a zoom option. Our next meeting is planned for May 8, 2025. (We will leave our “Walk & Weed” event at Eagle Park by 5:45 pm that evening to start the regular meeting).

X Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (NM); 2nd (RS); meeting adjourned 7:25 pm.

* Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84574267401?pwd=ZmEzQWZiQUtWRzVxaW5WOU9EbXRzZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 7426 7401

Passcode: 566093

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

