

Bristol Conservation Commission
March 14, 2025

I Call to order: 6:02 **Present:** Alex Smith, Kristen Underwood, Zelig Smith, Carolyn Dash, Nancy Morrison, Jono Chapin, Roger Sullivan
Members of the public: Aidan Lenihan (Bristol Rec), Randay Durant

II Public Comment Period - none

III Addition of Items to the Agenda - none

IV Review and approval of minutes from Feb 13, 2025; motion to approve AS; unanimously approved

V Correspondence- email from Addison Town Forest

VI New Business

A. **Annual report**

VII Old Business

A. **Wildlife corridor project:**

○ **Debrief Planning Commission Meeting on Feb 18**

AS -recommends giving PC a very straightforward set of guidelines. Approach on a basic level on why it matters and what we are trying to do. different tracks to approach, one mapping, and two a framework for landowners - including criteria of features on how they can develop their land around the wildlife.

○ PC suggested it would help to have physical maps to look at as making decisions. Next steps- maps and templates for homeowners and put into the town plan and given to the planning commission. Get landowner permission to get a wider camera trap data. Have Middlebury College interns identify new varied locations to survey

B. **Timberlands Mult-Trail Partnership:** discussion

KU: increased outdoor recreation is part of the town plan but this parcel has high conservation values, rare species - peregrine falcons, and plants, rare natural communities.

Request to hire an ecological firm to do an assessment with landowners approval

RD - Connecting with State agencies. Look into rare and endangered species.

JC - Create a checklist of what is important and what we want to present to the Timberland Committee.

A concern about hunting around the trails was brought up.

AS- Hunting is an important ecological part. Hinesburg town forest completely closes for 2 weeks during deer rifle season.

Homework: Find funding and find an ecological assessment bid if the landowner grants permission

C. **Town Plan 2020:** consider progress and next steps

- We are on track to complete or continue working on town plan
- Focus on the forest blocks and wildlife connectivity and possibly updating.

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

○ Seth Hill field trip planning

- field trip in May or June on a Thursday around 5pm
- Saunders River Access sampling request
doing buffer planting - harvesting willows to replant in other areas.
 - Sycamore Park pruning
planned for next week.
 - Town Green - Reseed certain grass areas. New certified wood chips and seal the wood structure.
 - Sycamore Park - Kiosk glass fixed. Occasional trash dumping in parking lot area
Knotweed - glyphosate application, take more knotweed back even further.
 - Eagle Park - Big piles of snow blocking access. The hard infrastructure looks good.

E. No Mow May:

- signage to advertise
- focus more on pollinators
- more signage for the pollinator garden.
- Possible no mow in the town green
- Signs at the Green up day table

F. Green Up Day: no update

G. Education outreach: no update

H. Website:

- NM and CD membership updated
- add annual report
- update the new rules

I. BCC Membership

- Ian proposed the vacancy be posted. No bylaws saying AL can't join based on town job.
- CD will post in FPF for vacant spot

VIII Events- non

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 our Annual Meeting and planned for April 10, 2025

X Adjournment AS moved that we Adjourn, 7:47

* Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84574267401?pwd=ZmEzQWZiQUtWRzVxaW5WOU9EbXRsZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 7426 7401

Passcode: 566093

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