

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)

Minutes

June 12, 2025

6:00 pm

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

I Call to order: 6:01pm Carolyn Dash, Nancy Morrison, Kristen Underwood, Nikki Belanger, Zelig Smith, Jono Chapin, Kieran Mulvaney, Catlin Cusack, Aidan Lenihan.

II Public Comment Period

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

IV Review and approval of minutes from May 8, 2025 -ZS Motion, KM 2nd

V Correspondence

VI New Business

- A. **Black Bears in Bristol:** Conversation with Catlin Cusack - bear ambassador training how we can minimize human - black bear interactions. Community advocacy and education. How to spread the word about Fish & Wildlifes “living with bears program” Let homeowners know resources are available to help bear proof your property. Invitation for an educational talk with Q&A for the fall

- B. **Bristol Pond Dam:** Lewis Creek Assoc. unable to attend. Alex Smith unable to attend. Beaver dam is on top of manmade dam. The man made dam is no longer in compliance and the state is planning to blow up the dam. The state can't provide information on when it will happen but Bristol is low on the list. Alternative plans would be to raise funds to bring the dam up to compliance. Strong objections to blowing up the dam and its impact on wildlife and recreation at and around Bristol Pond. KU will reach out to Monkton CC to see if it is on their radar.

VII Old Business

- C. **Parks Updates:** Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access, Seth Hill, etc.:
 - a. Sycamore park trails- AL : surveyed the park and the shoreline has changed. Currently no emergency access. AL presented to the select board about opening up the trail to 18-20 feet wide to provide better access. Clear line of sight for safety. Put down wood chips for people to walk on and to help mitigate knotweed growing on and around trails. Work is expected to be done in the next 2 weeks. Long term plan to clear knotweed from encroaching on the green space and to reclaim the greenspace. JC- the apple trees have promising blossoms.
 - b. Seth hill tour debrief- David Brin gave us a walking tour and explained what the land was and currently is used for. He also explained the water bars he installed. JC the road is very steep and it is Don G. responsibility to figure out how to get up the road. AL: walked the road with DG. On the Survey map there is another parcel that intersects with the access road that is owned by private property. The PP was not addressed in David's plan. The Forest service has tagged certain bars that need to be moved or leveled out. The national forest listed the land as soft recreation but with the bars it is not accessible for recreation. KU - DB put the water bars in to bring it up to compliance with logging roads. DB closed out the

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logging road to reduce erosion. Are we making the property to make accessible for one person or for understanding all the uses - conservation, recreation, and working the property. JC it is up to Don to come up with a best fix since what water bars are already put in. ZS - what does compliance mean for that road- were other options available beside the water bars.

Homework: review the management plan and prepare to discuss at the July meeting. Think is it still worthwhile for Bristol to keep ownership, selling to green mountain forest, or a private individual.

- c. Site visits (Saunders River Access tour, schedule) - Tentatively planned Thursday June 19th at 6pm look for email for updates and map.

D. Timberlands Multi-Trail Partnership: no updates

E. Green Up Day: final numbers debrief - no update given

F. Wildlife corridor project: (tabled)

G. Education outreach: (tabled)

H. Organizational items:

- a. Missing minutes- Nancy will look on the webpage and find missing minutes.
- b. Webpages updates - update that we have an open seat.
- c. July 10 and August 14 meetings: zoom only
- d. Membership - new open seat

VIII Events- Saunders river tour access on June 19th at 6pm

IX Next Meeting: The BCC meeting the second Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm. Our next meeting is planned for July 10, 2025 on zoom only.

X Adjournment 7:39 pm KM 2nd ZS

* 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)