

Bristol Conservation Commission
Feb. 13, 2025
Minutes (draft)

I Call to order: 6:05 pm on zoom. Members present: Helen Young, Carolyn Dash, Nancy Morrison, Zelig Smith, Roger Sullivan, Kristin Underwood, Jono Chapin. Guests: Jim Quaglino, Meredith McFarlane, Ken Johnson, Porter Knight, Max Zeltsar

II Public Comment Period

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

IV Review and approval of minutes from Jan 9, 2025: ZS moved to approve, JC seconded.

V Correspondence

VI Old Business

- **Timberlands Multi-Trail Partnership:** presentation and discussion by Rec Dept and collaborators (K. Johnson, P. Knight). Hogback land owned by Ken Johnson; proposal for the land accessible to wide variety (bikers, hikers, sugaring). Want BCC on board for support. A. Johnson felt very strongly that access to the ledges via this property be maintained. Kiosk, educational material, trail system. Discussed the positions of proposed trails, parking, bike racks, maintenance, liability. Asked about their plans to protect endangered species/habitats in this area. Review RFP for discussion at March meeting and/or to provide feedback to them
- **Wildlife corridor project:** Max Zeltsar will present at Planning Commission's Feb 18 meeting. What can we contribute to the town plan? How will planning commission use the data/maps in their planning?
- **Parks Updates: Sycamore** (apple pruning needed - JC will coordinate), **Seth Hill:** updates and discussion. KU: if we had a Seth Hill Management Plan, it would help us in planning (KU has offered to write one); plan a site visit; Select Board ended with vote to approve a lease for the sugar bush but no specific language about trail access and management - does this leave the town of Bristol on the hook for the maintenance of trails? Who maintains/fixes trails? Currently Don Gayle is putting down trees in the largest 'Swales' to make them more crossable. Discussed if Conservation Reserve fund be used for trail maintenance - no agreement. CD - the sequence of events on this land included BCC very late in the process; makes this confusing to discuss.
- **Accessible Design for Town Parks:** KU: final report received from Dan Mallach, waiting for feedback (JC has some ideas). P. Knight: remember that these are concept maps/ideas, not final plans
- **Lincoln CC's recent project:** HY attending a meeting at the Lincoln Library sponsored by the Lincoln Conservation Commission on natural burial. They have been tasked with examining town-owned land (in Lincoln) to see if there are any areas that could be used for natural burials. The room was packed and there were many Bristol residents there.
- **No Mow May:** Emily May giving a presentation ("Less Lawn, More Life") at Middlebury's Congregational church on April 8 2025 for Pollinator Pathways.
- **Green Up Day:** planning updates - CD doing planning
- **Education outreach:** continue discussion

- **Website:** updates will happen next month

VII Events

VIII 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 March 13, 2025

X Adjournment: ZS moved to adjourn; JC seconded. 7:48pm.

* 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)