Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)
Minutes
March 12, 2026
6:00 pm
Location: Holley Hall conference room (with a Zoom option)

I Call to order: 6:02 pm Carolyn Dash, Nikki Belanger, Jono Chapin, Nancy Morrison, Roger Sullivan, Kristen Underwood, Gail Klein.
Members of the public: Jonathan Cummings, Greg Faust
II Public Comment Period - Jonathan Cummings is new resident of Bristol. Works for Fish and Wildlife and works in conservation biology.
III Addition of Items to the Agenda - None
IV Review and approval of minutes from Feb 12, 2026 - Tabled
V Correspondence - None
VI New Business

A. **Annual Meeting:** election of officers -JC nominated KM for Vice Chair 2nd NM
NM nominated CD for Chair 2nd by JC
NM continue as clerk - Nominated by Commission
All Nominateds voted in
Jono, Gail, and Zelie have terms up in March

B. **Town Meeting:** Debrief -
   a. CD a member stood up and said there was no interest listed for the A Johnson fund. CD is going to look into it and get the interest number for us. Also getting clarification on what the money can be spent on.
   b. The town administrator wants to meet with CD to get an overview of the BCC and what our goals and views are for the future of parks.

VII Old Business

A. **Town Plan planning:** familiarize ourselves with the 2020 town plan -
   a. Identify significant public scenic resources - scenic looks outs. KU suggested putting out a survey to the town and asking what they think are public scenic resources.
   b. Maintain existing public facilities and outdoor spaces - KU regular maintenance of town parks, and the BCC participation on the Accessible parks plan. CD the UFP, perennial garden, pollinator garden, apple trees.
   c. Public access to New Haven river, Baldwin creek, and bristol pond - new trails at sycamore, UFP at Eagle. KU - Conserved the Paul Fuller parcel that continues with Saunders River Access.
   d. Invasive species - Rec dept. - cut down and put wood chips down to cut back on the Japanese knotweed in sycamore park.
   e. Education and outreach for landowners about endangered species - Middlebury college students.
   f. Biking and hiking trails - Bristol Trail Network, New leaf Organic bike trails, Timberlands Mtn Trails project.
   g. Opportunities to conserve land - Fuller parcel, KU reached out to the LO that lives by sycamore park but that never went anywhere. Have discussed helping the public with easements and land trusts.
   h. Management plans - complete - Memorial, Sycamore, Eagle, Prayer Rock, Saunders RA . Working on - Seth Hill, Shackett, Town Green. Planning - Coffin Factory

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i. River Corridor Conservation protection measures - KU new law by 2028 all river corridors will have a state review requirement.

CD - What does modern conservation look like, what needs to be updated. What do we want in the town plan. JC - Go ask the public if they would like help to place their land into a land trust and that would be part of the town plan. KU - That is what ZS &AS are working on to make conservation information more available to the public.

B. Bristol Pond Dam: Updates
   a. KU - Kate Kelly from LCA heard from Fish and Wildlife went in and cut the brush on the top of the dam in the fall . They planned to breach the beaver dam but were unable. Plugged the breach and will reassess this summer. Reported they didn't see active beaver activity but others have noticed a lot of beaver activity.

C. **Educational outreach:** pollination presentation- Tabled
D. **Conservation podcast:**
   a. Want content ideas. KM has pitched the history of Saunders River access. Record the presentations that LCC is putting on. Conversion will be continued.
E. **Parks Updates:** Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access, etc.:
   a. Updates - Still dormant from winter. NM will follow up with Aiden from Rec for ideas for work days in the parks.
   b. Planned spring work - Pollinator garden - reach out to BTN for help.
   c. Pruning to be planned - JC will send an email to plan a day for pruning.
F. AVCC membership - Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions dues are $50 per year. Those commissions can then apply for tiny grants. CD got an email saying we haven't paid them since 2022. CD will follow up and see if the town is paying. It is being billed to the town. KU we got a tiny grant to support the historic sign at the coffin factory around 2017-2018.
G. **Green Up Day is May 2, 2026**
   a. The plan is the same as in past years. More updates at the April meeting.
   b. Watch for places to send people around the town.
H. **Timberlands Multi-Trail Partnership**: no updates
I. **Vermont Land Trust request for volunteers** – no updates

VIII Events
IX Next Meeting:
The BCC meeting the second Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm. Our Meeting is planned for April 9, 2026 in the Holley Hall conference room with a zoom option.

X Adjournment 7:06 RS motioned NB 2nd

* Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84574267401?pwd=ZmEzQWZiQUtWRzVxaW5WOU9EbXRsZz09

Meeting ID: 845 7426 7401
Passcode: 566093

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