Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)
Minutes
April 9, 2026
6:00 pm
Location: Holley Hall conference room (with a Zoom option)

I Call to order: 6:00 pm Carolyn Dash, Nikki Belanger, Jono Chapin, Nancy Morrison, Kieran Mulvaney, Kristen Underwood
Members of the public: Josephine Alling, AZ Larsen, Greg Foust, Jonathan Cummings
II Public Comment Period - None
III Addition of Items to the Agenda - None
IV Review and approval of minutes from Feb 12, 2026 & March 12, 2026 - Approved
V Correspondence
VI New Business
VII Old Business

A. **Bristol Pond Dam:** UVM presentation on Bristol Pond - dam is in Monkton but pond is in Bristol. Pond also known as Winona Lake.
   Dam reported to be poor overall condition rating. Recommended repair, rehabilitate or replacement to bring it into compliance with current dam safety rules and guidance. Low Hazard potential - if it were to fail no major damage.
   If the dam was removed the water level would change and that would have an impact on wildlife and land use. Different approaches: Do nothing - higher hazard, lack of maintenance and not recommended. Moderate the amount of vegetation on the dam. Remove Beaver Influence - beaver deceive, lethal option, or removal from site (would probably return). The best option would be to find a way to coexist with beavers. Rehabilitate/ Replacements are expensive with not a lot of funding sources. Difficult to rehabilitate or replace dams in VT due to cost, permits, design. Dam Removal - moderately expensive, still need design and permitting. More studies to know how it would impact habitat, wetlands would dry up,water levels change. They do have more funding sources for dam removal.
   Main Recommendation: remove the beaver influence and increase maintenance. Future work: Site survey, sediment assessment, Hydraulic models and studies, and beaver monitoring. Funding for dam feasibility studies

B. **Town Plan planning:** discussion with AZ Larsen
   Overview of what is required for the Town Plan.
   Planning support: VT dept. Of housing & community development municipal planning grant - focus on natural resource updates to flooding, shoreline, forest fragmentation and hazard mitigation. Bristol is part of a pilot program Climate action office - Social resilience planning guide.
   Overview of what BCC has completed or worked on from the 2020 Town Plan Deliverables - Send AZ Larsen all management plans, annual reports. Next timeline May to do community engagement and focus groups.
C. **BCC membership-** Gail Klein has resigned from commission. Jonathan Cummings is interested in joining the BCC.

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D. **Parks Updates:** Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access, etc.:
    a. Updates -Sycamore Park: tour of new paths leading to the river, brush hog the perimeter to help stop the knotweed from encroaching into the park. Thoughts on pollinator garden - Do we (BCC) want to plant/ water it or contact Porter Knight/ Helen Young to see if they will be doing the work.
    b. Pruning - Successfully pruned the apple trees at Sycamore Park. Jono, Aiden and Kieran.
    c. Any planning for spring work- meet at Eagle park 4:30/5 before the May meeting.
    d. Sampling request- Access to cut willow stakes at Saunders Rivers access.
E. **Educational outreach:** pollination presentation- Tabled for next meeting
F. **Conservation podcast:** meeting Sunday 19th about the radio station in General to learn more. Get ideas and see who wants to be involved. Recording equipment has been acquired and they are getting people who know how to use it.
G. AVCC membership - mixup in payment but looking into that they can bill the town directly. Membership is beneficial to getting grants.
H. **Green Up Day is May 2, 2026:** Table will be on the Green from 8-12 to pass out bags. Bags will be downstairs in Holley Hall instead of upstairs due to the construction.
I. **Timberlands Multi-Trail Partnership**: finalized next steps for design. April 28th public comment meeting is tentatively planned.
J. **Vermont Land Trust request for volunteers** – coordinating buffer planting at Gateway Farm turns out they have a contractor doing the planting and don't need volunteers for planting. Need volunteers to remove invasive plants. Additional funding to help move and fill in holes in the livestock fencing - that is protecting the buffer. They may come back and ask for a monetary donation.
K. **VIII Events**

IX Next Meeting:
The BCC meeting the second Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm. Our next is planned for May 14, 2026 in the Holley Hall conference room with a zoom option.

X Adjournment 8:03 KM Motion

* 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)