

Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 119
October 5, 2011 at 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting began at 7:00 PM.

Present:

Alice Dew, Chair
Stephanie Landis, Secretary/Treasurer
Marjorie Burr Carmody, Member
Jeffrey Bronn, Member
Ryan Blessey, Member

Absent:

Michael Murphy
Ralph Manning

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 09/07/11 –

A. Dew made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. M. Carmody seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. Dew stated that she had attended a presentation by the Forestry Division and that she had spoken to a member of the DEEP who said that there is a program that allows people to cut trees in Open Space for a small fee, provided that the person cutting the tree obtains a permit. A. Dew stated that the Town marks the trees, not the person who obtains the permit.

J. Bronn entered the room at 7:03 PM.

The DEEP has a document that states that the Town who is permitting the tree cutting is not responsible for people who get hurt in the process of cutting the wood.

A. Dew stated that the trees need to be removed still that Avalon had cut down.

R. Blessey stated that the plan to remove the trees from the Williams Park was never established.
R. Blessey stated that he will check into having the hold harmless agreement signed and have some people move the trees from the sides of the Trails in the park.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

The letter from C. Buitrago to the Conservation Commission dated 09/19/11 Re: CT Northeast Organic Farming Association publications was reviewed.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

S. Landis stated that the current budget has \$3842.52.

The Commission moved from Treasurer's Report to Current Project Reports.

6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

- **The Nature Center:**

S. Landis stated that Matt of Quality Tree will call A. Dew to look at the tree at the Nature Center.

S. Landis stated that Kim Yates would be an excellent candidate to live at the house. Ms. Yates is willing to be the caretaker of the property and would report to the Commission. S. Landis suggested that the Commission allow Ms. Yates to live in the house at the price of her current rent.

Ms. Yates would like to move in November 1st, but would like some time before that to start setting up the house.

J. Bronn asked for clarification about whether the rent would be with the stipulation that Ms. Yates work on the house. S. Landis stated that Ms. Yates said she is willing to give the equivalent of one day's work per week on the property. S. Landis stated that she will compile a list of things that need to be done for the Commission.

A. Dew asked for all of those who were in favor of having Kim Yates be the new tenant at the Nature Center. The Commission voted yes unanimously, 5-0.

R. Blessey asked if the money from the Nature Center rent goes into the Town budget. A. Dew stated that the money does not go to the Town budget fund but that each individual house has its own unique account for the money to be deposited into.

S. Landis stated that she keeps a complete record of the properties and the budget.

R. Blessey stated that his concern was to be sure that the money stays with the Commission for individual properties regulated by the Commission.

- **Gurski Homestead:**

R. Blessey stated that there are not a lot of highly priced items that need to be replaced; he stated that most of the items that needed to be replaced were taken care of.

R. Blessey suggested that the Gurski Homestead be turned into a small committee that reports to the Conservation Commission. It was agreed that an advisory committee of a few people to advise this Commission would be a good idea.

R. Blessey suggested that the Conservation Commission ask the Gurski Homestead Commission for a report.

Conservation Commission does not know the long range plan of development for that property.

- **Happy Landings:**

A. Dew stated that part of the stand for the windmill is up. A. Dew stated that she will get an update from D. DiPinto about the windmill.

- **Burr Farm:**

M. Carmody stated that Jason has done the mowing but now needs to remove his trailer from the field. M. Carmody said that D. Burr needs to clean and will do some of the mowing as well.

- **Williams/Gurski Open Space:**

A. Dew stated that she and R. Blessey will look at the property.

- **18 Junction Road:**

S. Landis stated that the new lease has been signed.

R. Blessey suggested bringing up the houses for the leases to the budget fiscal year, and not individual dates per location and house. R. Blessey stated that the rents all need to be pro-rated.

- **Eriksen Farm Open Space:**

M. Carmody stated that she ordered the sign and she would like to have some publicity for the event to put up the sign. M. Carmody stated that Bob Fisher has mowed the field.

R. Blessey asked how long the haying leases last. A. Dew stated that she believed it was five years, but M. Carmody stated that the leases are sometimes flexible. A Dew stated that the Commission asks for the certificates of insurance from the people who hay the fields every year.

M. Carmody stated that she had talked to D. DiPinto who suggested installing bollards along the property, which M. Carmody stated that she believed would be better than split rail.

A. Dew stated that the Commission could use heavy rope from one bollard to the other. S. Landis also suggested chain link between the bollards.

A. Dew asked for all those in favor of bollards instead of split rail. The Commission voted all in favor of bollards. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

M. Carmody stated that she was not sure about the success of the garden on the property.

R. Blessey stated that he will look over the property.

It was noted that this property was filed as section eight.

A. Dew stated that she and M. Carmody will set up a day to inspect the house with Peter Olsen.

A. Dew stated that she would like to have some spruce trees planted for more privacy on the property.

M. Carmody stated that the property needs some landscaping.

A. Dew stated that J. Bronn suggested we do an event over on that property. His suggestion was an Eriksen "Coming Out" party, such as a sponsored hike or the like. J. Bronn stated that the property needs more publicity.

R. Blessey stated that Newtown was raising money for a dog park and that the related businesses were out for this event. R. Blessey stated that some event such as that would be a larger draw for people.

A. Dew also suggested possibly having a petting zoo for a day or such a related event.

The Commission discussed the possibility of having a 4H event on the property. R. Blessey stated that this is good time of year for 4H activities because many of the agricultural schools

have already started classes.

M. Carmody stated that an event could be done in the Spring. S. Landis suggested that every Commission member bring some ideas to the next meeting.

R. Blessey suggested contacting the Historical Society to see if they would be willing to work on a farm day or something related.

J. Bronn suggested hosting a singles hike at one of the properties.

A. Dew suggested that if J. Bronn wanted to pick a day for the singles hike the Commission could advertise with the Parks and Recreation Department. M. Carmody stated that it would take approximately twenty minutes to walk the Eriksen property.

A. Dew suggested that Williams Park may be a good spot for a singles hike.

J. Bronn will find out when the Parks and Recreation Department book will be put together.

- **Ferry Farm:**

A. Dew stated that the Town had another appraisal on the property.

A. Dew stated that negotiations are beginning to occur, and that in December the Commission will most likely need to go to the Finance Committee.

The property up for sale is twenty-one acres. The zoning is R-80.

The Commission moved to Old Business.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

Trail Guides:

A. Dew stated that she found six more complete trail guides and there are about fourteen more covers.

A. Dew stated that Eriksen Farm Open Space should be added to the list.

A. Dew stated that she has been working with K. Daniel to improve the maps of the trails.

R. Blessey noted that there are many places online to order printing for the trail guides. The Commission agreed that a smaller version of the trail guides is more convenient for hikers. J. Bronn will look into the price of the printing.

The Commission moved to new business.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

The Election of Officers:

**A. Dew made a motion that the same officers continue in their current positions as in 2010.
R. Blessey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

S. Landis stated that she will contact R. Manning.

J. Bronn asked if the Commission wants to include the open space properties in the trail guides.

A. Dew stated that the larger properties should probably be included.

A. Dew made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 PM. R. Blessey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 5-0.