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**APPROVED MINUTES**  
***Brookfield Conservation Commission***  
**Brookfield Town Hall Room 119**  
**January 4, 2012 at 7:00 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Present: A. Dew, Chair

M. Carmody, Member

S. Landis, Member

R. Blessey, Member

J. Bronn, Member

Absent: M. Murphy, Alternate Member

R. Manning, Alternate Member

The meeting began at 7:01 PM.

**2. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING: December 7, 2011** - The Commission continued the review of the pervious meeting's minutes to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting: **December 10, 2011 special** - **A. Dew made a motion to**

**approve the minutes of the special meeting, and S. Landis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

**3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jason Sivo was present to speak to the Commission about the possibility of using the Eriksen Farm barn to store hay.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:**

a. Letter from S. Rezazadeh to the Conservation Commission dated 12/07/11 Re: Diversion Permit Application, Greenridge Interconnection

The Commission had no comment about this letter.

b. Letter from A. Paterson, Esq. to A. Dew dated 12/27/11 Re: Connecticut Land Conservation Council

A. Dew asked if the Conservation Commission would like to make a contribution to the Connecticut Land Council. **R. Blessey made a motion to give the Connecticut Land Council \$100.00. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 5-0.**

c. Letter from L. Werner to S. Landis dated 12/20/11 Re: The Housatonic River Valley

The Commission noted that the letter was asking for donations for the Housatonic River Valley. S. Landis stated that the Commission had already paid their membership dues.

d. Notice of Annual Recertification dated 12/14/11 Re: 8 Nabby Road

A. Dew stated that the Commission had twenty days from December 19th to complete the re-certification paperwork. A. Dew asked if the Commissioners had any comments about the re-certification.

R. Blessey stated that the current tenant has not done a lot of the items that the tenant has been asked to complete.

R. Blessey stated that the City wants to certify this tenant with the State for another full year.

The Commission agreed unanimously, 5-0, to raise the rent to \$1,500.00 monthly for one more year.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

S. Landis reported that there is \$7,522.52 remaining in the current budget.

R. Blessey asked if there was a list of projects that need to be completed for the properties regulated by the Conservation Commission. A. Dew stated that Happy Landings had not been trimmed in a while, and that tree work needs to be completed on some of the properties.

J. Bronn suggested using some of the money in the budget for creating the trail guide. R. Blessey suggested making an updated website for the Conservation Commission.

J. Bronn also suggested using some of the existing budget money for pest control. S. Landis stated that she thought spraying the trails was a good idea. She also stated that she had some information regarding prices that she will bring to the next meeting.

A. Dew asked the Commission to consider other necessary projects that could be completed with the remaining budget money.

#### Budget Discussion:

A. Dew stated that the budget is due soon, and that the Commission needs to review the proposed budget and contact A. Dew about any amount that needs to be altered before the budget due on January 17th.

### **6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**

#### Eriksen Farm Open Space:

*Jason Sivo present.*

Mr. Sivo asked if the Commission would be interested in renting the barn to him for the purpose of storing hay.

A. Dew stated that there are some items currently stored in the barn, but those items could be moved to another location within the barn.

R. Blessey stated that the current items that are stored in the barn would need to be secured in an entirely different section of the barn so Mr. Sivo is not responsible for those items.

A. Dew suggested that Mr. Sivo do some work for the Commission instead of paying rent for the barn. A. Dew stated that the Commission can make a list of projects for Mr. Sivo to complete in exchange for renting the barn.

**R. Blessey made a motion to allow Jason Sivo to use the barn to store hay in exchange for work on the other properties that the Conservation Commission regulates per an agreement approved by the Town Attorney. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 5-0.**

M. Carmody will make a list of the items that need to be done for the Conservation Commission.

#### The Nature Center-

S. Landis stated that she needs to have the property cleaned up from the storm. The situation

could be worse if there is a snowfall.

A. Dew stated that there is probably a day's worth of tree work between the Nature Center and the Gurski Homestead.

R. Blessey stated that he will ask Jeremy Carlson to do the tree work on both properties.

#### Happy Landings -

A. Dew stated that the Commission will look into the tree work that needs to be done on the property.

#### Burr Farm -

M. Carmody stated that Jason Sivo will bring some split rail to the property. The map and the kiosk is not up yet, and M. Carmody reported that there had been a lot of dog walking within the last few weeks.

A. Dew stated that cutting the brush should be included on the list of items that the Conservation Commission need to have completed.

#### Williams Park -

A. Dew stated that the Commission is still working on getting mapping for the park. FEMA is doing some tree work, but they need maps indicating the locations of the trees that need to be removed. A. Dew stated that D. DiPinto is taking care of this project, and will put the work to bid.

#### 18 Junction Road -

S. Landis stated that she had no report.

S. Landis asked if the oil tank had been removed. R. Blessey stated that he did not remove the oil tank because the property is on an automatic delivery of oil and oil had been delivered directly after the current oil tank had been replaced with a propane tank. R. Blessey stated that Mitchell will charge a fee to remove unnecessary oil from the tank.

S. Landis stated that she has since stopped service on the property and has been in touch with Leahy's for propane.

R. Blessey stated that the Conservation Commission needs to start a contract for the Gurski furnace. R. Blessey stated that it would be nice if all of the oil contracts could be bundled into one contract within the next couple of years.

#### Gurski Homestead -

A. Dew stated that the Conservation Commission now has jurisdiction over the Gurski

Homestead.

A. Dew stated that there was a meeting with the State and the State would like to have the site stabilized.

R. Blessey stated that the house at 26 Obtuse Hill Road has a good roof, gutters, the burner is being worked on, and next week tree work will be done.

R. Blessey stated that the next item that needs to be replaced at 26 Obtuse Hill Road is the piece of trim along the roof. The goal is to replace what is currently on the house with the same type of materials that are currently on the house. R. Blessey stated that he will get quotes for the rake board and the re-shingling for 26 Obtuse Hill Road.

R. Blessey stated that he needs to set up an Advisory Committee for the Gurski Homestead. R. Blessey suggested that the Advisory Committee should consist of three, possibly four members. The Commission agreed that the Advisory Committee will consist of the following members: Judy Heise, John Furlong, Bob Pitcher.

Land Aquisition/Ferry Farm - A. Dew stated that the Commission is waiting to hear from the Board of Selectmen.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

### Trail Guides:

J. Bronn discussed trail guides; he does not have the map for Eriksen. J. Bronn suggested going to a few printers to get quotes for the trail guides.

A. Dew asked J. Bronn what type of map he is creating. J. Bronn stated that it would be similar to the Nature Center maps.

R. Blessey asked for the Spring deadline for advertising hikes and other Conservation events in the Parks and Recreation publication. A. Dew reported that February 1st is the deadline to notify the Parks and Recreation Department about a hike or an event.

J. Bronn asked which property would be the best to hike, and A. Dew and R. Blessey stated that Williams Park is a good spot. J. Bronn also suggested kite flying at Happy Landings or Williams Park.

J. Bronn left the meeting at 8:40 PM.

### Capital Improvement Plan:

The Commission agreed that the Capital Improvement Plan was complete.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Conservation Commission Ordinance Text Change - Chapter 15:**

A. Dew stated that the Commission needs to review the wording of the change to the ordinance, and vote on the Conservation Commission ordinance. A. Dew stated that the powers and duties are being changed to include dwellings and structures, and also to allow the Commission to raise money and apply for grants, and to use the land to educate others.

**R. Blessey made a motion to send a memo to the Board of Selectmen stating that the Commission supports the changes to the Conservation Commission Ordinance Chapter 15. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 5-0.**

Land Use Review Comment & Notification Form – 101 Obtuse Hill Road Whispering Glen 8-lot subdivision application:

The Commission reviewed the current Planning application for 101 Obtuse Hill Road. **R. Blessey made a motion stating that the plan is fine with the Conservation Commission upon review. S. Landis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

**R. Blessey made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 5-0.**