



**APPROVED MINUTES
BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Town Hall, Room 119
March 7, 2012 7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

A. Dew convened the meeting at 7:02 PM and established a quorum of members:

Present: A. Dew, Chair; M. Carmody; W. Mercer; M. Murphy; R. Blessey

Absent: S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; J. Bronn

Also Present: K. Yates; Liz DeLambert, Member of the Brookfield Open Space Legacy

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 02/08/12 -

M. Carmody made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. M. Murphy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The Commission continued the review of the special meeting minutes until the next regular meeting.

R. Blessey entered the meeting room at 7:05 PM.

GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. Dew noted that J. Sivo is not able to attend tonight's meeting, but the hold harmless agreement has been created and the Commission has received the insurance information.

Christian Ball was present to discuss his Eagle Scout project.

The Commission moved to **Correspondence, item 4.c, Email from C. Ball to A. Dew dated 02/28/12 Re: Eagle Project**

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Commission asked C. Ball to speak about his Eagle Scout Project. C. Ball stated that he will be creating 20 bat houses and will be video-taping the project for a video on YouTube. He will also be doing a presentation on the project.

C. Ball described the advantages of the bat house, which will be mounted onto a tree. The approximate dimension is 3 feet long, 15 feet in the air. The prime tree would be a live tree that the bat house will hang up against. It will take a year for the bats to start inhabiting the location.

C. Ball stated that he will approach local businesses for material donations. In preparation for the presentation, C. Ball will put up advertisements for the bat presentation. C. Ball will also seek permission from the landowners before installing the bat houses on the trees. C. Ball stated that he had found thirteen possible trees on some of the Town-owned lands. C. Ball stated that he will also look into placing bat houses on privately-owned property. C. Ball stated that he needs signatures to confirm that the Town would benefit from the project.

R. Blessey made a motion to approve his project and for the Conservation Commission to be his beneficiary for the project. M. Murphy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

A. Dew signed the beneficiary forms for the project.

A. Dew stated that the Conservation Commission is building bluebird houses on Arbor Day, and suggested that C. Ball could provide information during the Arbor Day at Huckleberry Hill School.

A. Dew stated that she will consult with the State to find out if some of the bat houses can be put at the Gurski Homestead.

R. Blessey suggested that C. Ball write up his proposed locations for the bat houses on a map for the Conservation Commission.

Item 4.d, 2012 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference on March 24, 2012 – A. Dew stated that she would attend the Conference, and E. Cole stated that she would like to attend as well.

Item 4.e, A. Dew noted that there is another conference on the same day – **Growing Farms in Your Community**

L. DeLambert suggested that if people are interested in each attending different seminars and sharing the information with one another so that the same people do not all attend the same workshops during the conference day.

A. Dew stated that she had received some information from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation per a letter from H. Higgins dated March 2012. The Commission discussed the possibility of a donation.

M. Murphy made a motion to send the CT Land Trust a municipality rate of \$75.00. R. Blessey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

A. Dew stated that she had also received some correspondence from W. Davidson Re: the 2012 to 2013 budget for the tree work. A. Dew stated that the amount of money available would need to be used by June 2012, rather than be used in the next budget year.

A. Dew stated that she believes that the best way to estimate the amount of tree work required is by the amount of days of work needed to clean up the properties.

The Commission discussed the locations of work and areas of work needed on the various properties.

A. Dew stated that there was some work being accomplished by FEMA currently, but there is still a lot of work that will probably need to be done.

R. Blessey stated that he believed it was best to clear just the debris from the trails in Williams Park. A. Dew suggested that the trees be cut only ten feet back from the trails, if that.

M. Murphy stated that Happy Landings had never had tree work.

A. Dew stated that she would like to do some clearing on the Nature Center property.

A. Dew asked who the Commission would like to hire for the tree work. R. Blessey stated that if all the work was given to one or two people, more work for the amount of money would be done.

A. Dew stated that the Commission should probably get three estimates for the tree work on the properties. A. Dew stated that she would like a quote for a per-day rate, number of people, equipment, and how many days could be spent on each property. M. Murphy stated that the Commission would like to have a goal of work to be accomplished on the properties. R. Blessey agreed that it may be easier to get a quote for the work to be done, not necessarily just a day rate.

R. Blessey stated that the work could be completed by three different people on three different locations. A. Dew stated that she will ask for quotes to be submitted for the tree work.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A. Dew stated that S. Landis had sent her an email stating that the current budget amount is \$7097.00

Also, S. Landis had suggested in her email that M. Murphy submit a bill for repair of his tractor.

S. Landis also stated in her email that D. Burr, Jr. needs to be compensated for the 2011 year for the clean-up of the mowing of the trails.

M. Murphy stated that D. Burr, Jr. does mow a mile twice a month for six months out of each year.

A. Dew made a motion for the Commission to compensate D. Burr, Jr. eighteen hundred dollars for the mowing of the trails. W. Mercer seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

- **Nature Center** – M. Murphy spent two days working on the property. He has submitted a bill and has been compensated for the work.
- **Happy Landings** – A. Dew noted that on Thursday, Friday and Saturday there will be some students filming on the Happy Landings property. The students will not be driving any vehicles, and have the current permission of the Police Department.
- **Williams/Gurski Open Space** – No report.
- **18 Junction Road** – No report.
- **Gurski Homestead** – R. Blessey noted that the work for the digging of the trench has just been informally approved by the State.

R. Blessey stated that the Commission needs to find funding for a long-term plan, and eventually funding for a plan of preservation. A. Dew asked R. Blessey how the Commission should proceed in finding funding.

R. Blessey asked if the Commission should have the grant written by someone who works in Town Hall, and have that person correspond with an architect about the details for the grant. The other option is to have an architect write a grant for the property. R. Blessey stated that there was also a general plan of conservation that the Commission would need to take into consideration. R. Blessey stated that K. Archer is willing to come up with a plan for stabilization for the property.

R. Blessey stated that before the next meeting, the Commission should have a grant drafted for the plan.

A. Dew suggested that if the Commission uses K. Archer, they need to have exact budget numbers for his work with a time frame for his work.

A. Dew suggested that the Commission may want to ask for other estimates as well. R. Blessey stated that he will ask K. Archer for a quote for the stabilization plan.

A. Dew stated that the Commission will receive a budget number from K. Archer, and the Commission will apply for a grant. The Commission agreed to use E. Cole to write the grant, and she will be compensated for the amount of hours that she works.

R. Blessey asked that E. Cole research all of the grant information, and contact Mary Dunne from the Connecticut Historic State for more information.

L. DeLambert submitted a letter to A. Dew for Bartlett Tree Express for spraying. **R. Blessey made a motion to approve the tree work for \$750 for pruning the orchard**

and spraying the hemlocks at the Gurski Homestead. W. Mercer seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

R. Blessey stated that the burner had been wired. R. Blessey stated that he can call for a final inspection when the work is finished. M. Murphy and R. Blessey will complete the trench for the work.

- **Eriksen Farm Open Space** - A. Dew noted that R. Blessey is working on the lease for this property. M. Carmody made a list of work to be completed on the property. R. Blessey reviewed the list and asked M. Carmody to add the removal of the tree.

M. Murphy stated that regarding the Eriksen property, he has been researching the possibility of the kiosk. M. Murphy stated that he would like to meet with either M. Carmody or A. Dew to confirm the location of the kiosk on the property before he installs it.

- **Land Acquisition/Ferry Farm** - The Ferrys are considering the Town's offer for the property.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Trail Guides** – A. Dew asked who would be able to come to the Land Use Office at 4:30 PM for a meeting involving trail guides.

W. Mercer stated that he had spoken with someone from the Meriden Land Trust who had put together his own maps based on the trails in Meriden. W. Mercer stated that there are some open map programs available.

M. Murphy stated that he can use his Garmin software but that the property line is not visible on that type of map.

- **Connecticut Emerging Infections Program Flier for the Lyme and Other Tickborne Diseases Prevention Study** –A. Dew stated that the program will not spray open space and Town properties.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Election of Officers for the 2012 Calendar Year** - R. Blessey nominated A. Dew as the Chairman of the Conservation Commission. The Commission reviewed the other members of the Commission and their positions to determine who was able to be a Vice Chairman.

M. Carmody made a motion to nominate R. Blessey as the Vice Chairman, A. Dew as the Chairman, and S. Landis as the Secretary/Treasurer. M. Murphy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

- **Annual Arbor Day Celebration: Bluebird Day – Saturday, April 28, 2012:**
A. Dew asked for the members of the Conservation Commission to help for Arbor Day.

A. Dew asked if she should add safety goggles for the construction of the bluebird houses.

A. Dew stated that she also has the Gurski Homestead Commission meeting minutes, if anyone would like to listen to them.

K. Yates stated that there is a shrub toward the right of the driveway of the Nature Center that had been brought down by the storm, and it makes visibility to the road difficult. A. Dew noted that K. Yates can remove the tree.

M. Carmody made a motion to approve a pet rabbit outside at the property of the Nature Center. W. Mercer seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

M. Carmody made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM. M. Murphy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.