



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
*Brookfield Conservation Commission*  
**Brookfield Town Hall Room 119**  
**October 3, 2012**  
**7:00 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Present: A. Dew, Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Carmody; M. Dew  
Absent: R. Blessey, Vice Chair; M. Murphy; R. Manning  
Also Present: E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary

**2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 08/07/12; 09/05/12**

08/07/12 – M. Carmody made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

09/05/12 – M. Carmody made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT - None.**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Dew mentioned that there will be a CACIWC meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, and she asked if any of the Commission members would like to attend the meeting.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

S. Landis reported that there is \$10,189 remaining in the budget. A. Dew stated that there is \$87,363.00 remaining in the Capital Improvement budget for the Gurski Homestead.

A. Dew mentioned some of the ideas she has for the Homestead, such as a well at the property, and re-doing the chimney because the current chimney is crumbled. A. Dew noted that M. Dew will give the Commission estimates to fix the front porch step-up. A. Dew stated that the cost for this work should be taken from the Gurski Preservation Fund. M. Dew stated that a proper step should be added to the front of the porch, and the Commission discussed the possibility of making the front area handicapped-accessible. M. Dew stated that he would like to have six inch sonotubes for a fourteen inch front step with a ten inch rise for the front step. M. Dew noted that it would be for one step up. M. Carmody asked if there will be a railing, and M. Dew stated that he could add a railing if necessary. A. Dew stated that the plans for the stairs will be submitted to the State for approval through the Board of Culture and Tourism. A. Dew suggested that the Commission work with someone to create a

long-term plan for that property. M. Dew suggested that a granite slab be installed on the patio, so that it looks authentic for the time period. M. Dew noted that there is a picture of a wooden step for some historical reference. S. Landis inquired about the cemetery, and A. Dew stated that she had heard from Jan Howard, who had mentioned that she would clean some of the headstones in the cemetery. S. Landis stated that it would be good to focus on the restoration of the house, and A. Dew noted that to at least focus on the preservation of the front house would be a start. A. Dew also suggested that the Commission could use this house as an office or a historical tourist site. S. Landis mentioned that in the future the house possibly could be used as a historical society tea house or gift shop. M. Dew stated that there are some parts of the front porch where there are some huge holes where animals are now living. A. Dew showed the Commission some pictures of the holes at the house on the property. M. Dew noted that the shingles in the surrounding area need to be ripped up in a large amount of space so the re-sheathing can be done to repair the area. M. Dew noted that some of the shingles can be ripped off temporarily and patched up as well as possible. M. Dew agreed that he will temporarily repair the area.

A. Dew noted that there is also \$9,800.00 in the barn improvement category of the budget. A. Dew stated that the lowest level of the barn has the stalls for the cows, the ground level floor is open, and the hay loft is at the top of the barn. S. Landis mentioned that it would be good to preserve some of that barn for educational purposes. M. Dew stated that he believed that the main floor (the loft side) is the only functional side of the barn. A. Dew stated that the restoration of the barn can be discussed at the next meeting.

A. Dew stated that now may be the time to get some estimates to complete some of the repair of the trail systems in Williams Park. S. Landis, M. Carmody and M. Dew agreed that this would be a positive capital improvement. S. Landis asked if the Commission can hire George Waltz to complete some of the repair work on the trails, and A. Dew asked if he had much experience with erosion. A. Dew mentioned that last year some of the trails had to be closed. A. Dew stated that the Commission will assess the damage at Williams Park. A. Dew stated that she will try to set up an appointment to meet with the Controller about the budget.

## **6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS**

- a. Nature Center – S. Landis stated that she will check into the mowing for the property. S. Landis mentioned that she told R. Ackell to call A. Dew about the possibility of landscaping. A. Dew mentioned that she is going to talk with D. DiPinto about the invasive species at the front of Williams Park.
- b. Happy Landings – A. Dew noted a letter that was received from John Miller. A. Dew mentioned that the property has only been mowed once this year.

- c. Burr Farms – M. Carmody reported that the fields have been mowed twice. M. Carmody stated that the post to prevent car traffic needs to be cemented in. M. Carmody will buy necessary supplies and reset the post. M. Carmody stated that she would like some money to hire someone to install the new map in the kiosk for the property. A. Dew stated that she believes that kiosk plexiglass can be unscrewed and reset. A. Dew stated that she will take a look at the kiosk, and help M. Carmody change the map. A. Dew stated that laminating the materials for the kiosk may be an option, especially for the Happy Landings kiosk. M. Carmody will collect some information that is unique to the property to display at the kiosk.
- d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – A. Dew stated that there is no report, except that the trails will be taken care of.
- e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis stated that she will have the chimney repaired as well as the gutters at the rear of the house. S. Landis stated that the television has been removed from the property. S. Landis also reported that the basement looks much cleaner because some of the items have been removed. S. Landis stated that the outside looks good from the street.
- f. Gurski Homestead – A. Dew stated that the lease ends November 1<sup>st</sup>, and she has received the new certificate of insurance. A. Dew stated that R. Blessey will take a look at the house, and he will talk with the tenant.
- g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – A. Dew stated that the next item to be repaired at the property is siding. A. Dew mentioned that the Commission should get some siding estimates. S. Landis stated that there are many bee holes in the current siding.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Farm Fest Overview and Discussion – M. Dew reported that approximately eight hundred people came to the event. M. Carmody also noted how long people stayed at the event, and M. Dew stated that there are a few people that spent the entire day at the Farm Fest. A. Dew noted that some items to secure for the next annual Farm Fest are porta-jons, a raffle, coffee, insurance rider, parking attendants and locations. A. Dew noted that the hay rides were a hit. A. Dew stated that there could be a registration and a mailing list, especially for the people who did the demonstrations. A. Dew noted that there could be more vendors, and a history of the tractors and types of tractors and how they work could be shown to attendees. A. Dew also mentioned that possibly Shakespeare’s Garden could be contacted to get involved for the next event. Other suggestions are hot air balloons, cows, oxen, butter churning or ice cream demonstration, trailer pull, face painting,

camp fire cooking, signs along the hay ride. S. Landis suggested that pumpkin carving be included in the demonstrations for the kids.

S. Landis suggested that birds could be brought to the property for the Farm Fest event in the future, possibly with the help of Wild Birds Unlimited. M. Carmody stated that it was quite impressive to watch all of the tractors go up the hill. A. Dew stated that it would be good to have a fundraising event for the Gurski Homestead in the future.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Community Garden Discussion – A. Dew stated that she has contacted the head of the Community Garden, who is also part of the Lions Club. A. Dew stated that a community garden could be done at Eriksen Farm or the garden could be moved up the hill at the current property, and if a well was added to the property a line for water could be set for that. A. Dew stated that this property is being used for events now, and the location of the garden worked well when there were owners using the garden at the time. S. Landis suggested that Eriksen Farm would be a perfect place for the garden relocation. A. Dew suggested that this discussion be continued to the next meeting.

**DEER MANAGEMENT** – M. Dew stated that there was an article today in the Brookfield Patch about deer management. M. Dew noted that White Tail Solutions has asked about their sharp shooting plan. They feel they have approval for that program. M. Dew noted that this is an effort with some night hunting using crossbows. M. Dew stated that what the group would like to do is have a multi-year program to be paid \$70 per deer to bring the deer population down to fifty per square mile. The ultimate goal is to decrease the deer population to ten deer per square mile. A. Dew replied that before this plan goes farther, the applicants should come before the Conservation Commission to discuss this possibility. M. Dew stated that the local hunters have harvested some deer this year, and there have been no currently reported problems.

**ADJOURN – M. Carmody moved to adjourn at 8:06 PM, and S. Landis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*\*Please contact Stephanie Landis: 203-775-4545 if you cannot attend the Meeting\*\*\*\*

**\*\*Next regular scheduled meeting for November 7, 2012\*\***