



APPROVED MIUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 119
May 1, 2013
6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** S. Landis called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.
Present: R. Blessey, Vice Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Carmody; J. Bronn; M. Dew
Absent: A. Dew, M. Murphy
Also Present: E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 03/06/13; 04/03/13 – M. Carmody made a motion to approve the minutes (of the 04/03/13 meeting) as presented. J. Bronn seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
3. **GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** *David George of 36 Pocono Ridge Road, Brookfield, CT, Donna Katsuranis or Brookfield, John L. Tomascak of PolyTec Electrical Contractors LLC were present.*
M. Dew explained that the garden area did not sign a lease for the past few years, and that the garden looked abandoned. Mr. George noted that the wood chips were dropped off at the garden site by the landscaper because the wood chips were needed at the garden. There was some miscommunication between the amount of wood chips that were dropped off. Mr. George stated that this will not happen again. Mr. Tomascak noted that there were also some chips dropped off by the Town crew in the past. Mr. George explained that the chips are used around the perimeter of the garden to prevent the wood chucks and other animals from getting into the garden. Mr. Tomascak asked if the Commission would give their approval to allow the Kiwanis Garden to use the back portion of the lot for some chip storage. Mr. George offered some history about the garden. Mr. George stated that this is the fourth year of the garden, and the donations are split about equally to the Brookfield food pantry and the Dorothy Day soup kitchen. Mr. George noted that he would like to see the garden grow, and he had spoken with M. Murphy in 2010 about the possibility of installing a well for the garden. Mr. George stated that there is a hand-pumped well, and the plants are watered by hand. Mr. George noted that the group has been collecting funds to eventually install a well. Mr. George stated that the goal is to create an agreement with the Town to have a perpetual lease for at least several years at that site.

M. Dew mentioned that he believes that there was just a break in communication for a while. Mr. Tomascak asked what the Commission needs from the group, and M. Dew stated that the Conservation Commission should further discuss this matter. M. Carmody asked if the area has been plowed, and Mr. Tomascak stated that he has M. Murphy's

tractor to do the mowing and the plowing at the area. Mr. Tomascak asked where the Commission would like the group to store the chips, and if it was appropriate to store the chips at the site. Ms. Katsuranis noted that planting day is the weekend after this Sunday. Ms. Katsuranis stated that the other planting work is done all by hand. M. Carmody stated that she does not want to see a pile of mulch at the site. Mr. George asked if it would be an issue if the mulch was spread. M. Dew and M. Carmody will walk the site with one or more of the present group members on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM. Ms. Katsuranis shared stories about how much the garden has influenced people in the community. J. Bronn stated that the Commission appreciates the volunteerism, and asked why the group goes by the name "Kiwanis". Mr. George replied that the Kiwanis Group had helped start the group, and has continued to help raise the funds for the garden. Mr. George stated that he is grateful for the Town to allow the group to have this opportunity. M. Dew stated that the First Selectman's Secretary is drafting a lease that will expire in November 2013.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Letter from H. Higgins of the CT Trust for Historic Preservation to the Brookfield Gurski Homestead dated April 2013 – No action.
- b. Email from Brian Lynch to A. Dew Re: Eriksen Farm – M. Dew noted that he and M. Carmody could take a look at the dead trees when they are out on Saturday morning to look at the garden. R. Blessey suggested that J. Sivo could remove and/or cut the tree(s).

J. Bronn left the meeting at 6:41 PM.

- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT:** S. Landis reported that there is \$2,775.89 remaining in the budget. R. Blessey noted that the assessment of the future capital exposure should be done so that the projects could be correctly budgeted. R. Blessey suggested that he and M. Dew could do this project, possibly during the fall.

6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

- a. The Nature Center – S. Landis stated that G. Waltz will be mowing the meadow and the field on the other side of the stone wall tomorrow. S. Landis stated that she has been working on the removal of the invasive species on the stone wall. S. Landis asked everyone to plan to get together at the Nature Center on Sunday, May 19th to organize the garage and prepare it for a floor.
- b. Happy Landings – No report.
- c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody reported that everything is in good condition, but that J. Sivo did not spray yet. R. Blessey stated that J. Sivo will spray the area within the next couple of days, and J. Sivo will post signs for the spraying.
- d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – M. Dew stated that the garden looks great. R. Blessey noted that the trail day is coming up, and there was some information in the Patch about the stocking of the pond.
- e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis stated that the spring cleanup is done. S. Landis stated that she has a proposal to remove the tank.

S. Landis distributed some estimates for repair work at the property. M. Dew explained that there are a few different approaches that could be used to complete the work. The Commission agreed that the work will be done by AT Carpentry. R. Blessey asked about the lease period, and S. Landis stated that she will check on this item.

- f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey stated that after the well is dug, everything will be hooked up.
- g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody stated that one of the new trees that has been planted has since died.
- h. Deer Management – No report.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Trail Day: Nature Walk at Williams Park (*Saturday, June 1, 2013*) – The Commission noted the upcoming date of the event.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Kiwanis Garden Discussion – This item was discussed earlier under correspondence.
- b. Kellogg Street – R. Blessey stated that the Historical Society has asked permission to store the wainscoting and the chalkboard from the old schoolhouse at 21 Kellogg Street to be stored at the front house at the Gurski Homestead until they can build a frame and make it a display. The Commission agreed to allow them to store these items.
- c. Plan of Conservation and Development – R. Blessey stated that the Planning Commission has asked the opinion of the Conservation Commission regarding the update to the Plan of Conservation and Development. R. Blessey noted that no open space or conservation of land should be allowed to be developed for residential use or any other type of commercial/industrial use. **R. Blessey made a motion to authorize A. Dew to send a letter to the Planning Commission stating that open space (for the update of the Plan of Conservation and Development) can only be used for passive recreation. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

- 9. ADJOURNMENT: M. Carmody made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

****Next regular meeting scheduled for June 5, 2013****