



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
*Brookfield Conservation Commission*  
**Brookfield Town Hall Room 119**  
**June 12, 2013**  
**6:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A. Dew called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and established a quorum of members:

Present: A. Dew, Chair; R. Blessey, Vice Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer;  
M. Dew, M. Carmody

Absent: J. Bronn; M. Murphy; R. Manning

Also Present: Richard Lane; E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 05/01/13 – M. Carmody made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

**3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** Richard Lane was present to observe the meeting.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:** M. Dew mentioned that a Boy Scout is rebuilding the bridge over Merwin Brook that was washed out by Hurricane Sandy as his badge project. The Boy Scout has received D. DiPinto's approval, but not the approval of the Conservation Commission. M. Dew stated that he will ask D. DiPinto to refer any future projects on open space land to the Conservation Commission. **A. Dew made a motion to approve Matt Soyland's Boy Scout Project. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

*A. Dew left the meeting room at 6:05 PM to get a folder from the Land Use Office. A. Dew returned to the meeting room at 6:08 PM.*

*R. Blessey entered the meeting room at 6:19 PM.*

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT:** No report.

**6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**

- Nature Center: S. Landis stated that the lease expires at the end of October. S. Landis mentioned that she can ask Mr. Jennings to do some weed-whacking at this property. S. Landis suggested that perhaps the Conservation Commission should consider installing a gate at the property.

- Happy Landings - A. Dew stated that Billy Stewart Jr. was planning to attend this evening's meeting regarding spraying of the field. M. Dew noted that the field must be hayed and mowed twice a year to be sure that the weeds do not grow back again. A. Dew stated that she is not quite sure why the field was not hayed twice per year last year. A. Dew asked if any one of the Conservation Commission members would like to oversee Happy Landings. A. Dew noted that two high school students are working on their senior project and will be doing some work on the kiosk at this property. A. Dew stated that the door around the windmill has been wrenched open so that it does not close properly. A. Dew asked the Commission members if they are aware of the cost estimate for brush-hogging the entire field.
- Burr Farm - M. Carmody noted that J. Sivo has told her that people allow their dogs to relieve themselves in the hay. M. Carmody stated that there is a sign about picking up after the dogs, but J. Sivo has suggested that perhaps the sign could be better placed or made larger. M. Carmody noted that the haying was successful and the field had produced a good amount of hay this year. M. Carmody asked R. Blessey if he could cement the cistern cover, and R. Blessey agreed that he will do the work.
- Williams/Gurski - A. Dew noted that William Davidson will be attending tonight's meeting at 6:30 PM to discuss the proposal for the property. A. Dew stated that two high school seniors are doing work on the property, and G. Waltz has done the brush hogging and some weed-whacking. M. Dew stated that he has noted which trees need to be taken down. M. Dew mentioned that the Parks & Recreation Department has been mowing the trails. There are about nine trees that need to be removed on the property.
- 18 Junction Road - S. Landis stated that the lease expires on August 31<sup>st</sup>. S. Landis mentioned that this property has a two-year lease. S. Landis stated that the repair work is going well.
- Gurski Homestead - A. Dew stated that the property has been brush-hogged. A. Dew stated that the grant from the State Historic Preservation Office has been awarded for a total amount of \$10,000. A. Dew stated that it may be difficult to find the engineer, and she has been in touch with J. Salame for suggestions for engineers. A. Dew stated that the Commission will work on getting an engineer; the next step would be to apply for a grant for the long-term plan for the property.

*First Selectman William R. Davidson and Selectman Howard Lasser entered the room at 6:37 PM.*

- Green Hills Proposal - Mr. Davidson stated that the organization known as Green Hills Farm and Community would like to locate on Gurski, starting at the bottom of the hill, a quasi-self-sustaining community for permanent residents, housing and a community for adults with special needs. Mr. Davidson showed some information that was submitted by the organization. Mr. Davidson noted that there are some current practical problems with the current proposal. He also highlighted the benefits of such a project.

The Commission discussed this proposal with Mr. Davidson and Mr. Lasser. A. Dew stated that building a community on an open space property does not fit the definition of open space. A. Dew stated that as Chairman of Conservation Commission, she believes that the Conservation Commission would not be doing its job to conserve open space if this proposal were to move forward for this property.

- Eriksen Farm Open Space - M. Carmody reported that the shrubs that M. Dew planted look great, and there is a pile of mulch that is gone. She stated that there is a roadside sign indicating Kiwanis Garden.
- Deer Managment – No report.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. A. Dew mentioned that the Plan of Conservation and Development is currently under consideration and review by the Town.

9. **ADJOURNMENT: R. Blessey made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 PM. M. Dew seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**