



**Brookfield  
Conservation  
Commission**

**APPROVED**



**MINUTES**

**Brookfield Conservation Commission**

**Brookfield Town Hall Room 119**

**August 7, 2013**

**6:00 pm**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** A. Dew called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and established a quorum of members:  
**Present:** Alice Dew, Chair; Ryan Blessey, Vice Chair; Stephanie Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; Marj Carmody; Jeffrey Bronn; Mac Dew  
**Absent:** Mike Murphy; Ralph Manning  
**Also Present:** George and Wendy Waltz; David George; E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 07/03/13 – M. Dew made a motion to approve the minutes, and M. Carmody seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**
3. **GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** David George came to sign the lease for the Giving Garden. Ryan Blessey had asked if the water tanks have been installed. He stated that Lou Menendez was to bring water tanks over to the site to be filled with a fire truck.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A. Dew stated that the CACIWC membership has been sent, and the meeting is November 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday in Hartford.
5. **TREASURERS REPORT:** S. Landis stated that the current balance is \$10,571.36.
6. **CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**

**Nature Center** – S. Landis stated that G. Waltz has done a great job on the stone wall and the other side of Krissy's Garden. G. Waltz stated that he has installed the plaque on the rock, as requested.

**Happy Landings** – Alice Dew stated that she has spoken with Billy Stewart Jr. The field has only been mowed once per year. A. Dew stated that she has also received an email from someone else who would like to mow the field. A. Dew suggested that the Commission wait to hear from Billy Stewart, Jr. A. Dew stated that the property will also need to be brush-hogged. A. Dew noted that she has been told that the soil needs to be lined, herbicided and fertilized. A. Dew mentioned that the herbicide that was used last time is very safe.

**Burr Farm:** M. Carmody reported that Jason Sivo had cut some of the hay. M. Carmody noted that her nephew, Donald Burr, Jr. does do some of the mowing along the walkways. M. Carmody stated that a plaque has been put on the rock at the farm. R. Blessey noted that the cistern area will be mowed so that R. Blessey can complete the work for the cistern, which is currently covered in poison ivy.

**Williams/Gurski Open Space:** M. Dew stated that the Green Hills Community has decided to move on; the group is no longer interested in development for this project in Brookfield. There is some tree work that needs to be done. M. Dew suggested that a volunteer day may be done to complete some more of the cleaning. A. Dew stated that Rosie and Kyle, high school students, did a great job on the project as their Senior Project.

**18 Junction Road:** S. Landis stated that the lease has been signed, and she has an estimate for the oil tank removal of \$500. S. Landis asked if she can arrange to have the oil tank removed. S. Landis also stated that she will ask Mike Jennings to clean up around the gas tanks. S. Landis stated that about this time of year, she has all the septic systems pumped and cleaned by New Milford Septic as needed, but the Commission has the option to choose whoever they would like. She noted that 18 Junction Road and the Nature Center tanks should be pumped. S. Landis asked if anyone on the Commission would like to use any other company, and no one had further comment. S. Landis stated that the alterations have been finished, but that the foundation should be sprayed every so often for ants. Ryan Blessey asked if the spraying needs to be done now. S. Landis stated that she has been using Master Shield for the spraying.

**Gurski Homestead:** R. Blessey stated that the tenant had a plumbing matter resolved. A. Dew noted that the tenant also had Hantsch Electric make a repair in mid-July. A. Dew noted that the requests for proposals have been sent to three engineers for the grant that has been received for the structural and historical evaluation of the structures on the property. A. Dew stated that this grant was only to evaluate the buildings. R. Blessey stated that he has spoken with the Town Attorney about the pipe issue in the front house. The plans that the work was executed on call for footings drains, but the pipes are above the grade of the floor. The footing drains should generally be below the grade of the floor. These drains were not installed according to the engineered plans that were submitted to the State and the Building Department. R. Blessey stated that the Commission could require that the contractor could be given the option to fix the work. All of the work was done by the grant that was received and overseen by the Gurski Homestead Committee. Even when the drain pipe is completed, the Commission will still need the catch basin issue resolved. R. Blessey stated that another engineer would need to review the engineered plans. M. Dew asked if there was someone who should have overseen the project that did not properly do so. M. Dew stated that he also agrees that this matter needs to be pursued. R. Blessey suggested that the Commission through the Town Attorney give the contractor who did the work the option to fix the work first. R. Blessey stated that the first step is to verify the facts with an engineer. **The Commission agreed unanimously to move forward with the work required to get the facts and the legal matter. A. Dew made a motion that if the cost of obtaining an engineer's opinion is under \$750, R. Blessey can get the engineer's opinion. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

**Eriksen Farm Open Space:** M. Dew reported that the lease was just signed today. M. Carmody stated that the Commission has discussed completing the driveway work. M. Carmody stated that she will talk with Bob Fisher about the work in the field. M. Carmody stated that the area in front of the barn and the roadside could be cleaned up. R. Blessey stated that there is a combination lock on the barn. M. Dew stated that he has some information about having minor siding repair and paint work on the house.

**Deer Management:** M. Dew reported that he has been corresponding with White Tail Solutions and Mike Gallup about the local hunters. They have been trying to get a meeting together. M. Dew stated that there is a large separation between the two hunting groups. The properties are generally split between the two groups. M. Dew stated that there are about half of the properties that are available to the local hunters.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

a. **Farm Fest Planning Discussion** – R. Blessey stated that there was a meeting with some of the community interface people for the project. R. Blessey reported that the groups that were involved last year are the Historical Society, Garden Club, Lions Club possibly, the engines and the blacksmithing demonstrations. The engines display will double in size. G. Waltz will work on the tractor demonstrations, with a full-on tractor pull and tractor demonstrations. R. Blessey stated that the Police will be there, and Headquarters will be bringing one of the antique trucks, and Candlewood will be bringing one of their pumpers. R. Blessey stated that the pie and cheesecake contest is being organized. There will be a master gardener tent. R. Blessey stated that the Historical Society will be giving tours of the property and the cemetery, and should have an information booth, highlighting the Brookfield Farm Life. The Girl Scouts will be out as well. R. Blessey stated that the Conservation Commission has a lot of work to make this event double of what was done last year. There needs to be an info tent on site. A. Dew responded that she had bought a 10' by 10' tent that may be used for the info tent. R. Blessey stated that there needs to be a registration tent with a sheet that describes what is displayed, as well as giving some information about who is there and what they are doing. T-shirts need to be ordered as well to sell at the booth. There will be a sign-up sheet of rotation for drivers throughout the day. There will also be a bluebird tent. R. Blessey asked if the Commission would like to ask for \$5 donations for each bluebird kit building. A. Dew stated that the Conservation Commission just needs to have a suggested donations box.

The kids games will also be there, and the food vendor that was used last year will be asked again this year. R. Blessey asked for ideas for another vendor. A. Dew suggested that the Good Luck Food Truck could come. There is also an ice cream cart owner who vends that could possibly be asked to come out. A. Dew asked if the farmers from the Farmers Market should be asked to come to the event. A bake sale was discussed, which requires another tent and staffing. R. Blessey stated that he will ask the Lions Club to give the dedication ceremony. A. Dew suggested a flier with all of the events be made. J. Bronn suggested that the School list be added to the advertising. M. Dew asked about the parking situation. The lot directly west (Williams/Gurski) will be used. R. Blessey stated that he has been asked about this event all year long. Times were discussed for the pie contest, the bluebird house building, etc. The trail maps should be made also and be sold at this Farm Fest event. S. Landis stated that she and M. Carmody will bring the trail guides to the event.

The Commission came up with a list of items that need to be completed.

J. Bronn inquired as to long terms for the properties, and R. Blessey responded that as a Commission the Commission needs to have some type of working meetings to develop long range plans for each of the working properties.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:** There was none at this meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** M. Carmody made a motion to adjourn at 7:54 PM. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.