



APPROVED MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 119
September 4, 2013
6:00 pm

1. Call to Order: R. Blessey called the meeting to order and established a quorum of members:

Present: R. Blessey, Vice Chair; M. Carmody; M. Dew; J. Bronn

Absent: A. Dew, Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Murphy; R. Manning

Also Present: E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary

2. Minutes From Previous Meeting: 08/07/13 – R. Blessey made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

3. Guests and Public Comment: There was none at this meeting.

4. Correspondence:

a. R. Lane – R. Blessey read the letter from R. Lane to the Conservation Commission dated 08/29/13 regarding his offer for the Conservation Commission to purchase the 7.75 acres of land with frontage on Merwin Brook Road. The price of the land would be \$310,000. The Commission discussed the exact location of the property in relation to other properties in Town, specifically the Gurski Homestead and Williams Park. R. Blessey noted that the land historically was used as a horse pasture. **M. Carmody made a motion to send this information [letter from Richard Lane and Maureen Lane dated 08/29/13 and Property Survey showing land of Richard J. & Maureen M. Lane prepared by CCA, LLC dated 08/13/13] to the Board of Selectmen and the Town Attorney. R. Blessey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.** J. Bronn asked if it would be possible to visit the site. R. Blessey stated that a site walk should be done. Upon inquiry from M. Carmody, R. Blessey replied that the lot is overgrown, and the lot has not been actively used for a while. R. Blessey stated that he will set up a walk. M. Dew asked what the balance of the Commission's land acquisition fund is, and R. Blessey mentioned that S. Landis would know that amount. M. Carmody asked if the brook goes through the property, and R. Blessey noted that he believes that it does flow through the lot.

5. Treasurer's Report: M. Carmody reported that there is \$9,989.50 remaining in the budget.

J. Bronn made a motion to move to old business before current project reports. R. Blessey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

M. Carmody stated that J. Bronn did a great job speaking about conservation to the Garden Club last month. J. Bronn noted that he had sold many trail guides at the event and has given the money from the sales to S. Landis.

7. Old Business:

a. FarmFest Planning Discussion – The Commission reviewed the sample images for the printing of the t-shirts. J. Bronn stated that he was going to have a safety green color with the dark green lettering because the safety green color is the style. The Commission agreed to yellow printing on a light brown shirt. J. Bronn asked the Commission if they would still like to purchase the 100-quantity, which would be \$9.00 per shirt. R. Blessey stated that there is no date on the shirt, so the shirts can be sold at other events in upcoming years. M. Dew suggested that the shirts be sold at \$15.00 per shirt. J. Bronn will order 100 shirts for the event. The Commission agreed that if J. Bronn does not like the yellow print, to change it to white or some sort of lighter color.

R. Blessey stated that the Historical Society will be bringing the port-a-potties as well as a booth for the information about the Historical Society and the Conservation Commission, so their information will be included in the printed material that will be available at the event.

R. Blessey stated that Pat Kenney from Bethlehem will work with G. Waltz on the tractor pull. The Historical Society, Police and both Fire Departments will be involved in the event. R. Blessey mentioned that S. Landis was to inquire about whether the Garden Club would like to be involved. R. Blessey stated that on Friday afternoon before the event he and Alice and whoever would like to come down and help will go out and stake the area to delineate the locations of each of the FarmFest events. R. Blessey noted that the event will happen on Saturday the 21st and the rain date is scheduled for Sunday, the 22nd. R. Blessey stated that there will be a food vendor and an ice cream truck on site.

J. Bronn left the meeting at 6:48 PM.

R. Blessey mentioned that Goat Boy Soaps might also be coming to the event. M. Carmody stated that she might be able to bring a calf to the event if there is a spot. R. Blessey also noted that the Lions Club will be asked to help with the parking. R. Blessey suggested that perhaps M. Murphy could handle the Bluebird building houses. R. Blessey stated that there should also be a schedule of events for the day. M. Dew stated that the Girl Scouts will be out doing the games; they will be bringing the loom again. M. Dew suggested that the bluebird house building should perhaps be done after the loom. R. Blessey stated that the Conservation and the Historical tents should be near the opening, and the registration tent should be at the street opening. M. Carmody asked for the location for the hayrides, and R. Blessey noted that this location will be planned.

M. Dew stated that he will go out to the site to repair some of the safety fencing before the event. R. Blessey mentioned that there has been much work done at the site since the last event. E. Cole Prescott stated that she has completed the temporary food event registration form and the temporary event sign application.

6. Current Project Reports:

- The Nature Center – M. Carmody stated that she has been told that the Nature Center looks like a private residence. R. Blessey suggested that the Commission create a more uniform method so that all of the properties are recognizable. M. Dew noted that the Town of Fairfield has a method for identifying their properties.
 - Happy Landings – M. Carmody stated that the property has been mowed.
 - Burr Farm – M. Carmody stated that she has spoken with Dan McGee about making a sign. M. Carmody stated that her brother and his son went out and fixed the gate. The growth around the cistern needs to be cut down.
 - Williams/Gurski Open Space – There was no report.
 - 18 Junction Road – There was no report.
 - Gurski Homestead – No report.
 - Update: Grant for Engineering – R. Blessey stated that he and A. Dew had interviewed the engineer who had applied for this request for proposal. R. Blessey noted that the engineer who has applied has worked with a couple of other similar situations in New York. R. Blessey stated that a letter will need to be sent to the State referring an engineer after the decision has been made.
 - Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody stated that she and S. Landis have spoken with G. Waltz and B. Fisher about the work that needs to be done on the site.
 - Deer Management – M. Dew stated that he has met with the local hunters and with White Tail Solutions, and they are hoping to have more property on which to hunt. They will currently hunt on the property where they did last year. R. Blessey asked if M. Dew thinks that there would be a benefit to doing some PR about the hunting options. M. Dew also noted that Brookfield properties with more than five acres may also allow hunters to hunt on their land. R. Blessey mentioned that there had not been clear enough information regarding the details of the hunting given in the past. R. Blessey suggested that M. Dew write a three-sentence press release to be sent to the Patch and possibly the special notice section of the paper.

8. New Business:

- a. 41 Obtuse Road South: Open Space – M. Dew stated that A. Dew was suggesting that the property be trimmed because a nearby property owner has called about the overgrowth of the site. R. Blessey stated that the Commission would have to make the decision of whether or not to trim the property. The resident is concerned about the perimeter. R. Blessey stated that the property is very wet. The Commission discussed the location. M. Carmody stated that she believed that the property is about eight acres.
- b. Members: M. Carmody stated that she will discuss with J. Finch, a resident whom she met who is interested in volunteer work, about possibly attending some of the Conservation Commission meetings.

9. Adjournment: R. Blessey made a motion to adjourn. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.