



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
*Brookfield Conservation Commission*  
**Brookfield Town Hall Room 119**  
**October 2, 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:** A. Dew, Chair; R. Blessey, Vice Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Dew; J. Bronn; M. Carmody  
**Absent:** R. Manning, M. Murphy  
**Also Present:** E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 09/04/13** – **R. Blessey made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
3. **GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was none at this meeting.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** J. Bronn will submit information to Fat City for the tax reimbursement for the purchase of the t-shirts for FarmFest.
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** S. Landis reported the current amount in the budget. S. Landis noted that the approximate amount remaining is \$5,000 with the copies of invoices that A. Dew submitted to S. Landis at this evening’s meeting.
6. **CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**
  - a. The Nature Center – S. Landis – S. Landis stated that K. Yates would like to renew the lease for the Nature Center, and she has also asked if her friend could move in for a couple of months to help with the expense of the rent for a small period of time. A. Dew asked if K. Yates would like to do the weed-whacking around the barn at Nabby Road. R. Blessey noted that P. Rabb is also to be doing some work at the property that he is renting. S. Landis stated that she has some ideas for long-term projects, but she needs some smaller projects. R. Blessey asked if K. Yates would like to monitor the information boards at all of the parks to determine if the pamphlets need to be replenished or if any are broken or in need of repair. M. Carmody suggested that the Commission create a list of smaller projects that K. Yates could do on her own time. S. Landis reported that G. Waltz will also be re-building the stone wall. S. Landis stated that she has contacted Ms. Birdsall regarding a potential Girl Scout project, and she is waiting to hear back now from her. R. Blessey suggested that the Commission consider putting a concrete floor down on the garage floor. R. Blessey stated that the Commissioners could schedule a work day to clean out and organize the garage. S. Landis asked R. Blessey when he would like to

schedule this project, and A. Dew stated that she would be free after November. S. Landis noted that she will work with G. Waltz to coordinate this project.

b. Happy Landings – A. Dew asked who wants Happy Landings as a project. J. Bronn volunteered to help monitor this property going forward. R. Blessey stated that he will hay the field. R. Blessey stated that he believes that some people would like to hay the property. A. Dew asked R. Blessey to contact Billy Stewart Jr. to hay the property, and R. Blessey will follow up with him.

c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody – M. Carmody stated that she is waiting to hear back from the sign company. M. Carmody stated that she will have the sign made. M. Carmody reported that some haying has been done, and Don Burr Jr. is now working on the outskirts.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – M. Murphy, M. Dew – There is no report for this property. J. Bronn volunteered to help manage this space in conjunction with M. Dew.

e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – R. Blessey asked if the lease is up for this property, and S. Landis responded that the lease is not yet up for this property.

- Discussion of future plans for property at 18 Junction Road – The Commission will discuss this matter later in the meeting.

f. Gurski Homestead - M. Murphy, R. Blessey, A. Dew – A. Dew asked R. Blessey if the rent amount for this property should be raised, and the amount of the current rent was noted. M. Dew noted that some siding work needs to also be done on the front house. M. Dew stated that he believes that \$1,100 is reasonable for the rent amount. R. Blessey stated that the house has three bedrooms and one bath. **M. Dew made a motion to raise the rent to \$1,100 per month for the back house (aka: 28 Obtuse Hill). A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.** M. Carmody stated that she has been asked if the Conservation Commission would be willing to accept some portraits of the Gurski family. A. Dew stated that she thought it would be great to have the portraits in the front house.

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody, M. Dew – M. Dew stated that there are two trees across the trail in the back. M. Dew reported that this trail is not very well traveled, but it is used. M. Dew noted that he believes there was discussion about a long-range plan to connect the trail to the school. M. Carmody asked for M. Dew’s opinion on the parking lot, and M. Dew noted that he believes that the lot is in the correct location. M. Carmody asked how the garden looked, and M. Dew reported that the garden area looked good. A. Dew stated that the area around the barn looks like it needs to be weed-whacked. M. Carmody stated that she has asked G. Waltz to spray the area. *The Commission moved back to the Gurski Homestead discussion.*

Gurski Homestead:

A. Dew stated that an engineer has been hired to complete the engineering for the grant, which the Commission had received. A. Dew stated that Bob Fisher has checked the buildings for animals. A. Dew also noted that she has spoken with C. Donnelly from CT DEEP Forestry to complete a site inspection of the trees that were planted on site with funds from the America the Beautiful Grant, which the Commission was awarded at the beginning of the year. J. Bronn stated that October 6<sup>th</sup> is the Brookfield Day, and asked if the Commission could sell some shirts at this event. R. Blessey stated that he may be attending the event and would be willing to sell the shirts at the event. *The Commission moved back to discussion about Eriksen Farm.*

Eriksen Farm – A. Dew asked M. Dew to contact G. Waltz to have the house sprayed.

h. Deer Management – M. Dew – M. Dew stated that there is no kill report yet, and the parking lot near the Police Station is being used for access instead of the access on Route 7.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

a. 4 Murphy's Lane: Open Space Opportunity – A. Dew noted the amount remaining in the open space fund, and the Commission may be asked if they can sell another property and pay for this land. R. Blessey stated that he believes that this piece of land is a huge acquisition for the Conservation Commission that would open up the eastern portion of the property for access to the other side. R. Blessey mentioned that it would be good to have a small drive near the access on Merwin Brook Road. R. Blessey asked the Commission if it is generally in favor of pursuing purchase of this piece and possibly to sell the Junction Road property. A. Dew noted that there would probably be some sort of deed restriction not to subdivide the property placed on the Land Records, if it were to be sold. A. Dew noted that she will be attending the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday night, and would like to know how the Commission feels about the financing situation for the potential purchase. A. Dew noted that she believes that appraisals need to be done for the potential purchase of this property on Murphy's Lane and the possible selling of the Junction Road property. R. Blessey suggested that the Commission make a statement as to how they feel about this potential purchase and sale. R. Blessey suggested that A. Dew attend the Board of Selectmen meeting to give the information that the Commission discussed tonight.

**M. Dew made a motion to inform the Board of Selectmen that the Conservation Commission is interested in the property, and recommends the purchase of 4 Murphy's Lane, purchase price to be negotiated, and potential financing options also to be negotiated. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

*R. Blessey left the meeting room at 7:15 PM.*

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. FarmFest Discussion: Overview & Suggestions for 2014 Event – R. Blessey will send a list of all of the volunteers.

**9. ADJOURNMENT: A. Dew made motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM. M. Dew seconded the motion to adjourn, and it carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*\*Please contact Stephanie Landis: 203-775-4545 if you cannot attend the Meeting\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*Next regular meeting scheduled for November 6, 2013\*\***