



REVISED DRAFT MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
March 5, 2014
7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER: A. Dew called the meeting to order at 6:56 PM with the following people in attendance:

Present: A. Dew, Chair; S. Landis, Secretary, Treasurer; M. Dew; M. Carmody; J. Bronn

Absent: R. Blessey; M. Murphy

Also Present: Molly Birdsall and Mrs. Birdsall; Recording Secretary E. Cole Prescott

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 01/08/14 – S. Landis noted that the Chris indicated in the minutes should be Chris Rabuse instead of Chris Symes. **M. Dew made a motion to approve the minutes from the past meeting. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. Girl Scout Presentation for the Nature Center: Ms. Birdsall
Molly Birdsall, 50 High Ridge Road, Brookfield, CT. Molly presented her Girl Scout Bronze project to the Commission. Molly stated that she very much liked the Nature Center, so she has suggested to add a tire swing on a large spruce tree on site. Molly showed an example of the strap she would propose to use for the tire and the tree. She also would like to plant some pretty flowers such as Hollyhock, lilies and iris. She will research the most appropriate flowers. The Girl Scout troop and her troop leaders will be helping. She would like to do the project on May 23rd. She has been recycling aluminum cans to raise the money to afford the tire swing. The Commission agreed that this was a nice presentation. Molly is planning to plant the flowers near the entrance next to the board. A. Dew stated that there is a sale that is held each year by the Northwest Conservation District, and she will pass along this information to Molly. A. Dew suggested that the Commission could include how much weight the swing could handle. Molly stated that the straps can hold up to 500 pounds. Molly's mother, Mrs. Birdsall, stated that they will inform the Commission of the weight capacity of the tire swing. M. Dew asked if there is enough height to get a swing on the branch. S. Landis stated that the space near this tree is quite open as well. **M. Dew made a motion to approve Molly Birdsall's project at the Nature Center. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

Bartlett Tree Work Invoice – S. Landis stated that there are four or five treatments of the apple trees. S. Landis stated that the treatments begin in March. A. Dew stated that she will continue to

spray the apple trees at the Gurski Homestead herself. A. Dew clarified that apple trees need to be sprayed about four times per year to maintain the health of the tree and fruit.

J. Bronn entered the meeting room at 7:14 PM.

A. Dew made a motion to approve the Bartlett Tree work for the Nature Center. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

A. Dew stated that she had received a letter from the City Housing Authority of Danbury to allow the Commission to raise the rent to \$1300 for the 8 Nabby Road house.

A. Dew asked S. Landis if the Commission had paid for the Audobon membership.

A. Dew stated that Mary McGuirk would like to know if the Commission would like to add something to the Spring brochure about the Nature Walk. J. Bronn will email her the information for the Parks & Recreation brochure. The walk is on June 7th.

A. Dew stated that National Walk Day is on April 2nd, and there will be a walk around Town Hall with and sponsored by the Health Department, Human Resources, and the Senior Center.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: – S. Landis stated that there is no money remaining in the account.

6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

Nature Center – S. Landis reported that she assumes that everything with the new tenant is going well. A. Dew mentioned the amount that the current tenant will be paying until Chris moves in. S. Landis stated that she has spoken with him regarding the heating oil. S. Landis stated that Kim Yates should have received a refund also.

Happy Landings – J. Bronn reported that the haybales are still on site; he also stated that a map has been nailed to the kiosk. A. Dew stated that the Commission should ask Billy Stewart Jr. to move the haybales and then find another person who would like to farm the land in the future.

Burr Farm – M. Carmody stated that the parking area looks great.

Williams/Gurski Open Space – M. Dew stated that he had fixed the bench at the top of the hill. He has been to the park a few times. A. Dew suggested that a volunteer effort be made to clean up the trails.

Gurski Homestead – M. Dew stated that he has some lumber he was thinking of storing to use to re-build the shed at the homestead.

18 Junction Road – S. Landis stated that she has spoken with the tenant, and everything is fine. S. Landis stated that she has been trying to have the radon filter changed. S. Landis stated that the house needs to be cleaned. S. Landis noted that an inspection can be done at any time. A. Dew asked S. Landis to speak with the tenant regarding cleaning the house.

Gurski Homestead – A. Dew stated that she has submitted everything for the request for grant money for the engineering grant that was received. She stated that she will pursue this matter, and she thinks that the Commission should start to pursue another grant to compile a long-term

plan of development. M. Dew suggested that the Commission start to clean up the property and work on one building at a time. A. Dew stated that she is not sure if the Commission would be allowed by the State to move forward in this method. M. Carmody stated that she believed that everything needs to be approved. S. Landis stated that she has reviewed the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) from 2002 and she really likes the idea of hooking up the trail systems, and everyone seems to want walking, running, jogging trails. The POCD also pointed out that the Gurski Homestead is ideal for a central place to go out to the trails. M. Carmody asked when the easement time period started, and A. Dew responded that the period started in 2011. J. Bronn stated that he has noted over the past two or three years the Gurski Homestead has encompassed about eighty percent of the discussion. The Commission discussed the condition of the property. A. Dew suggested that the shingling on the front house be done and the shingling on one side of the back house also be done. A. Dew stated that she will get a quote to shingle the front house and the one section of the house in the back. A. Dew stated that the newly completed engineering assessment must be used to determine what is stable and what is salvageable.

Eriksen Farm – M. Carmody stated that she and M. Dew will go to the house and do a walk-through. A. Dew stated that the lease expires on April 1st. A. Dew asked if M. Carmody would like her to get a new lease, and asked M. Carmody to speak with the current tenant about submitting a new certificate of renters insurance. A. Dew asked about re-siding the house in the Spring, and M. Dew replied that he had received some information about pricing for repair on site. M. Dew stated that the cost to complete the re-siding of the house would be approximately \$25,000. A. Dew reported the remaining amount in the Eriksen Farm Open Space budget. M. Dew suggested that the Commission start working on this project.

Gurski Homestead – A. Dew stated that F. Lollie has had someone clean the chimney and check the draft. A. Dew stated that this matter is now resolved.

Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn stated that he had tried to go to the property, but it had not yet been plowed. A. Dew stated that there is a fair amount of garbage that collects at the site, and suggested that perhaps the Commission could find some volunteers to help clean up the sanctuary. J. Bronn stated that he is sure there are some groups in the high school that would also be willing to help.

Deer Management – M. Dew reported that he has received a list from White Tail Solutions on their take this year. On town properties there were ten deer, and on private town properties there were twelve deer. The hunt officially ended by January 31st of this year.

Potential Land Acquisition – A. Dew stated that the Town decided not to pursue the property after the appraisal had been received. A. Dew shared a copy of the appraisal with the Commission. A. Dew stated that a builder may be able to construct two houses on this land.

CT Walk – A. Dew asked J. Bronn if he would like to do a kid's walk and an adult walk, and she also asked if the Commission would like to do the bluebird houses again at the trail walk. M. Dew stated that many more birdhouses were done at Farmfest. It was clarified not to build the

bluebird houses at the Walk. A. Dew offered to do the kid's walk if J. Bronn would like to do the adult walk. J. Bronn mentioned that the walk rain date is June 8th.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Nomination and Election of Officers for the 2014 Calendar Year – A. Dew suggested that if anyone is interested in becoming a Chair next year, to consider it. A. Dew stated that J. Blick has also expressed interest to join the Commission. M. Carmody stated that J. Finch had also indicated interest in joining the Commission. **M. Dew nominated the same slate for a new term with a condition to consider changing the slate for the following year. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

M. Carmody noted that the Ferry Farm property has been sold.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Southbury Trail Guide: *Get Out and Get Healthy*: J. Bronn presented a trail guide and brochure that he had come across from the Town of Southbury. He shared the booklet with the Commission, which is all about the different recreational opportunities that Southbury has to offer. J. Bronn stated that there is a consistency to how the maps are done and designed in the brochure. J. Bronn stated that he will attempt to find the company that generated the brochure before the next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT – M. Dew made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

****Please contact Stephanie Landis: 203-775-4545 if you cannot attend the Meeting****

****Next regular meeting scheduled for April 2, 2014****