



DRAFT MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
April 2, 2014
7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER: A. Dew called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and established a quorum of members:

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

Absent: M. Murphy

Also Present: J. Sivo; L. Augusto; E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 03/05/14 – A. Dew made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried, with R. Blessey abstaining from the vote.

3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. 6 Pond Brook Court – *Louis Augusto of 6 Pond Brook Court was present.* A. Dew stated that there is a conservation easement which is located on a large part of the property which Mr. Augusto has purchased. A. Dew stated that there are five trees along the edge of the easement that now need to be removed. The property is a total of 2.5 acres, but only .5 of that acreage is useable, according to Mr. Augusto. The tree that is closest to the conservation easement is leaning in toward the proposed location of the house. Upon inquiry from M. Dew about the condition of the trees, Mr. Augusto replied that he is concerned that the trees may fall. A. Dew reported on the condition of the trees – some of which are dead, some of which have holes, and others of which will most likely be dead in the next couple of years. A. Dew stated that shrubs could be planted in place of the removed trees to prevent invasive species. **R. Blessey made a motion to approve tree removal at Pond Brook, per our [the Commission's] forestry information, along with the installation of four conservation easement signs. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.** Mr. Augusto asked about the placement of the signs, and A. Dew replied the signs should be placed about 4.5 feet high on the trees.

b. Jason Sivo – J. Sivo stated that he was asked to come to the meeting by M. Carmody to discuss a list of items to complete in repayment for his use of the barn at Eriksen Farm. He stated that M. Carmody has asked him to mow the property and trail in front of the Eriksen Farm. The trail is normally mowed by Jennings, and M. Carmody replied that this will save the Commission approximately \$2,000 per year. M. Carmody asked Jason Sivo to complete this task every two weeks. J. Sivo stated that he really appreciates the use of the barn.

M. Dew asked J. Sivo about the well in front of the barn at Eriksen. J. Sivo stated that the tile is broken, and the hand pump does not work. The Commission reviewed photos of the pump. A. Dew asked if J. Sivo would like to repair the pump. There is an electric pump under the tile. R. Blessey stated that there should be a hookup so that the Giving Garden group does not need to move the tile to use the electricity. J. Sivo stated that once the Commission has the size, they can have the tile made and have a pump installed. R. Blessey stated that the electrical work needs to be done properly.

Forefront Fertilizer at Burr Farm: J. Sivo also mentioned that he would like to spray the Forefront fertilizer at this property. **R. Blessey made a motion to allow J. Sivo to spray his already approved Forefront fertilizer [at Burr Farm] sometime between April 6th and May 6th. M. Dew seconded the motion. R. Blessey withdrew his motion, and M. Dew withdrew his second.**

A. Dew made a motion to allow J. Sivo to spray a fertilizer, Forefront, between April 6th and May 6th with notice to the Conservation Commission 24 hours before the spraying. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. A. Dew asked J. Sivo to post signs before he sprays at the farm.

J. Bronn entered the meeting room at 7:35 PM.

North Mountain Road Conservation Easement: Jason Sivo also noted that he would possibly like to cut some trees in a conservation easement area. J. Sivo stated that these trees are also in the wetlands. A. Dew stated that J. Sivo will need to complete the wetlands application for the cutting of the trees, if applicable. A. Dew stated that most of the easements have wording in them which allow the Conservation Commission to give written approval for the removal of trees. **R. Blessey made a motion that this Commission give Chair A. Dew the authority to give written notice to Jason Sivo to cut windblown trees on his conservation easement on [North] Mountain Road. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Letter from S. Rutkamp to the Conservation Commission dated 03/26/14 – A. Dew stated that the wording on this easement is such that the Conservation Commission has permission to enter the easement to complete maintenance. R. Blessey asked if the BOSLI (Brookfield Open Space Legacy) parcel is an abutter to this property. A. Dew stated that the Planning Commission, when they approved the subdivision, gave this easement to the Town of Brookfield. A. Dew explained that there is a stone wall in disrepair, and the owner would like to leave an eight foot gap in the stone wall for access to the easement area, rather than leaving the entire 25-foot access open. With this plan, the stone wall would stop before the end of the property line. **R. Blessey made a motion to allow the property owner to build a stone wall not to exceed six feet in height in the conservation easement area, with the provision that the property owner will leave an eight-foot gap to allow for access along the conservation easement area. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried, with M. Carmody abstaining.**

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: There was no report.

6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

a. The Nature Center – S. Landis – S. Landis stated that G. Waltz will be mowing Chrissy's Garden and checking the stone wall for the invasives.

b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn - J. Bronn stated that at the last meeting, there was some discussion about who would be doing the mowing on the property. M. Dew noted that there was a conversation tonight about the possibility of having J. Sivo remove some of the hay. R. Blessey mentioned that he will give Mr. Lowe's number to J. Bronn. R. Blessey stated that the Commission is looking for someone to take a five-year lease, and although there may be some expense upfront, the lessee would make back that money over time, hence the long-term lease. R. Blessey stated that an accurate site plan is in the proposed dog park file. A. Dew stated that in the far left of the property the weeds were to be kept growing for the butterflies.

c. Burr Farm –M. Carmody – M. Carmody stated that she has to work on having the sign done for Burr Farm Protected Open Space. M. Carmody stated that she has spoken with Anthony Reelock about installing a memorial rock in the parking lot in the corner.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew – J. Bronn stated that he has not been to the property recently. M. Dew stated that he has been to the property quite often. Last year quite a number of trees should have been cut, but the budget was depleted. M. Dew stated that there are a number of trees that are in precarious places. He will make a new map of what needs to be cut. A. Dew suggested that M. Dew contact D. DiPinto about budget amount. M. Dew asked if one of the Commissioners could take trees down. R. Blessey offered to help M. Dew remove any trees on a Sunday afternoon. A. Dew stated that she has received questions about the Sunrise Service at Williams/Gurski. A. Dew stated that the Commission would need to consider parking, motorized carts, and other matters for such an event.

R. Blessey left the meeting at 8:11 PM.

A. Dew stated that Craig Colorusso who does the sound boxes, would like to do an installation at Happy Landings for a week. A. Dew stated that this artwork display uses photovoltaic speakers, generally along a path.

e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – There was no report.

f. Gurski Homestead - M. Murphy, R. Blessey, A. Dew – A. Dew mentioned that she checked the basement, and there is no water in the basement. She noted that the pump is working. A. Dew stated that she is waiting for CT Historic to give the Commission the matching funds.

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space –M. Carmody, M. Dew - M. Dew stated that he spoke with P. Robb, who stated that Friday would be a good day for M. Dew and M. Carmody to stop by. M. Dew and M. Carmody will meet at 1:00 PM at Eriksen. M. Dew stated that he has received an email from John Tomascak regarding the Giving Garden, who would like to renew the lease. M. Dew suggested that John come to the next meeting, and the Commission can have the lease ready for him to sign. A. Dew suggested that M. Dew discuss the water situation with John for the upcoming year. S. Landis stated that she will be calling Matt Jennings tomorrow, and she offered to call to let Mike Jennings know that mowing will not be required this year at the Eriksen Farm.

h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn – There was no report.

i. Deer Management – M. Dew – M. Dew reported that the town hunters took 19 deer, and The White Tail group took 22, which is a total of 41 between the two groups. M. Dew explained that this number is not high enough to keep the deer population in check. M. Dew

cited reasons for the low numbers, such as not enough land on which to hunt and not sufficient land on which to hunt.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Trail/Map Guides: J. Bronn has inquired about the publication for *Get Out and Get Healthy*, which was done by the Town of Southbury. J. Bronn stated that the Health Authority had given some money for the publication of the booklet. M. Dew asked who had organized the booklet, and J. Bronn replied that there were two people – a private person who does mapping and the printer in Southbury. M. Carmody stated that she was very impressed with this book.

b. Tree City Recertification Application 2013 – A. Dew stated that the Tree City status has been granted again for the 8th year. A. Dew stated that the Commission usually does something for an Arbor Day Celebration/Proclamation, and she believes that this may be a requirement in order to keep the tree city status active for the upcoming year. E. Cole Prescott will check the paperwork to determine if there is a specific Earth Day Proclamation deadline or time period. A. Dew suggested the possibility of kicking off Earth Day in upcoming years with a series of walks. A. Dew noted the future possibility of the Blubird houses in April, a singles walk in May, and the CT walk in June.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. 7 Oak Grove Road – A. Dew stated that she was given information about 7 Oak Grove Road from Realtor Connie Strait. This is the property that abuts the Old Sherman Turnpike.

b. 86 Candlewood Lake Road – A. Dew noted that she had also been given information about 86 Candlewood Lake Road from the same realtor for consideration of purchase. A. Dew reviewed the acreage of each property as well as the price for each piece. *J. Bronn left the meeting at 8:37 PM.*

M. Carmody stated that 7 Oak Grove Road is all wetlands area. The Commission reviewed the maps of each property. M. Dew suggested the Commission politely decline both properties.

9. ADJOURNMENT: S. Landis made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 PM. M. Dew seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

****Next regular meeting scheduled for May 7, 2014****