



DRAFT MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
Wednesday, September 3, 2014
7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dew called the meeting to order with the following in attendance:

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

Absent: M. Murphy

Also Present: Recording Secretary E. Cole Prescott

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 08/06/14

3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT: There were none.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Email from Penny Schnell to A. Dew dated 08/15/14 Re: Happy Landings – Chair Dew explained that Penny Schnell would like to know which date would be best to come to one of the Conservation meetings. Chair Dew stated that a woman from the Audubon Society will be present to speak about Bobolinks at this proposed meeting. J. Bronn stated that late afternoon is better for him, and Chair Dew stated that Tuesday would be a good day for her. Chair Dew will ask P. Schnell for a Tuesday around 5:00 PM, preferably in October.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT: S. Landis stated that the balance is \$13,077.

J. Bronn made a motion to table discussion of current project reports to below discussion of FarmFest Planning. J. Blick seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. FarmFest – Planning Discussion – Vice Chair Blessey reported that the tractors and the Police are all set. He believes that Robert Fisher has worked on the fields so they will be suitable for parking. Vice Chair Blessey stated that at least one fire department will be present, and the possibility of a police dog demo is still being worked out. The Police Department would need to pay overtime for the event and demonstration. Vice Chair Blessey mentioned that he will not know until the last week whether the dog will be coming. Chair Dew stated that Fran Lollie has cleaned out the front gardens, and Chris Rabuse will have some of the chrysanthemums for planting. Chair Dew mentioned the possibility of installing a larger tent where the old community garden had been located. Vice Chair Blessey stated that he is waiting to hear back about whether there will be a tractor pull at the event. Vice Chair Blessey explained that the tractor pull requires much effort. R. Blessey stated that there will be some big tractors around the

grounds. Chair Dew mentioned that the Commission would also need to discuss where to have all of the vendor locations. Vice Chair Blessey stated that the Commission would need to consider the size of the tent and the financial investment. Chair Dew reviewed the list of organizations who had attended FarmFest last year: BOSLI, Garden Club, Historical Society, Police, Fire, Shakespeare's Garden, Royale Tobacco, Good Luck Food Truck, Roxanne's Truck, the Lions Club, The Newcomers Club, and others.

M. Carmody will have a baby calf, a couple of chickens and a rabbit, which will be brought by the Tanner Family. J. Blick stated that she has six hens that could be brought over if someone has a cage large enough to transport them. M. Carmody stated that she could ask her family member about bringing a large cage for the transport of the hens. E. Cole Prescott will ask T.E. Lopez of the Lions Club to help again this year with parking cars. Bill Landis also will be present, and would probably be able to help park cars. J. Bronn asked if the Boy Scouts could be included in the activities; M. Dew replied that the Boy Scouts have been busy in the past when he has asked, but this would qualify as a community event. S. Landis has spoken with G. Waltz recently, and he will probably attend the event. J. Blick will be present, and she will have some games for children. She is planning to ask the Girl Scouts to come help run the games, and J. Bronn has some additional games. J. Bronn asked about prizes to give to participants. J. Blick also mentioned that apples could be given as prizes. J. Blick stated that the apple bobbing was very popular, and J. Bronn mentioned that he had heard that apple bobbing was unsanitary. J. Bronn stated that he has a bean-bag toss, a wheel that spins, as well as some other games for children. J. Blick also mentioned sacks for sack races. J. Bronn will get baby pumpkins from Stew Leonard's, and the Commission asked that J. Bronn ask Stew Leonard's to donate some of the baby pumpkins to be used as prizes for the games. Chair Dew reviewed some of the costs associated with the event. M. Carmody also stated that the Commission should rent port-a-johns for the event. Chair Dew stated that there are some tables in Town Hall that can be used, and there are some chairs in the house at the Gurski property. J. Blick stated that the loom is also very popular. R. Blessey stated that the engines will be there. Bluebird houses will be done. M. Dew stated that the houses could be done all day long, unless there is a shortage of volunteers. The hay rides will also be done this year. Chair Dew stated that the Commission could meet again before the event to review the locations of each organization/vendor. M. Dew questioned whether it is worth the extra money for a tent if the rain may cause the attendance to be very low. M. Dew stated that the tent would be more useful if there were also other indoor events. R. Blessey stated that there was a rain date last year, and the rain date turned out to be worse than the actual date of the event. J. Blick clarified that the public still cannot go in the house. J. Blick mentioned that a tour of the old farm house would be a very nice future event. E. Cole Prescott mentioned that the Conservation Commission should probably include the Arbor Day event at FarmFest. J. Blick mentioned that caramel apples would be great giveaway prizes. Chair Dew asked if the Girl Scouts could work on the candied apples. J. Bronn asked about advertising, and A. Dew responded that she will give two fliers to Ginny Giovanniello, in the First Selectman's Office, for posting at the Post Office and at the Town Hall. She has also made some laminated versions for posting in the kiosks on conserved lands throughout Town. The event is listed as News & Announcements on the Town Hall's website. J. Bronn will put the information in *The Patch*, and E. Cole Prescott will mention something in *The Penny Saver*. Chair Dew stated that *the News Times* could be contacted, and E. Cole Prescott mentioned the possibility of contacting Nanci Hutson. Chair Dew stated that she will ask Diane of the Board of Education about

distributing the information to the schools. J. Blick asked if there will be a contest again, and last year there were baked goods for sale. S. Landis mentioned that there should be suggested donation amounts this year. Chair Dew stated that Kimberly Farms should be moved to a different location this year. Chair Dew stated that the Commission can review the week before where to locate the organizations and the vendors. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, September 16th at the Gurski Homestead at 6:00 PM. E. Cole Prescott will notice the meeting as Gurski Homestead Coordinating Special Site Walk. Chair Dew stated that the FarmFest shirts will also be sold at the event.

J. Bronn left the meeting room at 7:45 PM.

Chair Dew mentioned that someone should be at the entrance to the event with forms to have completed with the make, model, and the year for each of the farmers coming with tractors or other equipment for the event.

The Commission moved back to discussion of Current Project Reports.

6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

a. The Nature Center – Chair Dew stated that she has spoken with Chris Rabuse, who is willing to remove some of the larger items from the garage. S. Landis stated that she has called and also sent a letter to the former tenant regarding removal of the remaining items from the garage. Chair Dew stated that F. Lollie will also be coming to help clean the garage on Saturday. S. Landis stated the plan is to clean the garage at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning (09/06). S. Landis asked for approval to raise honeybees at the Nature Center. She would like to learn about raising the bees, and she has someone in the Garden Club who would work with her on this project. **The Commission agreed to allow S. Landis to start raising bees on site.**

b. Happy Landings – Chair Dew stated that if the sign is to be installed in the front of the stone wall, the Commission would need to lease property from the CT DOT as well as apply for a variance through the Zoning Board of Appeals, due to the close proximity of the sign to the center of the road. M. Dew suggested installing the sign on the south side of the parking area on the inside of the stone wall perpendicular to the wall, and limb up the trees so the sign will be able to be seen from both directions. If some of the trees are limbed up a bit, there will be better site from the road, according to M. Dew. Chair Dew stated that Pete Discala cleared the stone walls 25' back so the representative from DOT could view the site. M. Carmody stated that she did not have the installation of the sign included as part of the price of the sign. M. Dew offered to install the signs. M. Carmody stated that she would like to have the wall re-built. **Chair Dew made a motion to install the sign on the south side of the parking area [as described by M. Dew above]. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody stated that she and her niece made a presentation on the property, with an audience of twelve people from the Senior Center. M. Carmody stated that the Senior Center members would like to come back for another walk in October. Chair Dew mentioned that M. Carmody should take pictures of any events like this and send the information to *The News Times*. M. Carmody encouraged the Commissioners to walk the site, and to look at the memorial rock on site.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – M. Dew had no report.

e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis stated that the outside looks good, but the septic system will need to be checked next year. S. Landis stated that some trees will need to be removed for future access.

f. Gurski Homestead – Chair Dew stated that M. Dew and she have spoken with Patrick Conlon, the engineer, about the plans for the back shed. M. Dew mentioned that the shed will be restored.

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody stated that she has no report. M. Dew stated that he will be seeing Steve Turco on Saturday about the painting of the barn. M. Dew will visit the site before that time.

h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – No report.

i. Deer Management – M. Dew stated that the hunting season starts in a couple of weeks. He had a phone call last week from a homeowner on Muirwood Court who complained about a hunter who set up in the backyard. The site is about forty feet off of the homeowner's property line, and the property line is about sixty feet into the woods. M. Dew stated that the hunter is re-locating his site, which is the hunter's decision. M. Dew stated that there had been a fair amount of vandalism, of which the Commission has recorded video footage.

b. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations – *There was no discussion of this item.*

8. NEW BUSINESS:

9. ADJOURNMENT: M. Carmody made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM. M. 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 October 1, 2014****