



DRAFT MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
October 1, 2014
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following in attendance:

Present: Chair Alice Dew; Secretary/Treasurer Stephanie Landis; Commissioner Marj Caromdy

Absent: Vice Chair Ryan Blessey; Commissioner Mac Dew; Commissioner Jeffrey Bronn;
Commissioner Julie Blick

Also Present: Recording Secretary Emily Cole Prescott

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **09/03/14:** Chair Dew made a motion to approve the minutes of the 09/03/14 meeting. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
- **09/16/14:** M. Carmody moved that the Commission approve the minutes of the 09/16/14 meeting. Chair Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no guests present.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence.

TREASURERS REPORT: S. Landis reported the current budget amount. Chair Dew reported the amount from the Farmfest event.

CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

Nature Center: S. Landis reported the current monthly rent amount. S. Landis stated that she has spoken with Earth Tones, who has recommended native or wildflower plantings. The furnace has been cleaned. S. Landis stated that the stove is beginning to overheat, and will need to be replaced. Chair Dew mentioned that she would like to put some items in the garage from the Gurski Homestead.

Happy Landings: Chair Dew stated that Penny Schnell has invited a presenter to speak about bobolinks. Chair Dew mentioned that a reminder about this presentation will be sent to the Commission. Chair Dew also noted that Director of Parks and Recreation D. DiPinto plans to attend this meeting.

Burr Farm: M. Carmody stated that the haying has been done, and she will take pictures at the next walk. M. Carmody has a meeting with Fran Lollie tomorrow at 8:00 AM to discuss what needs to be done on the site.

J. Bronn entered the meeting room at 7:25 PM.

The Commission returned to discussion of Happy Landings:

Happy Landings: Chair Dew discussed the upcoming meeting in October regarding bobolinks. J. Bronn stated that the farmer had only done one cutting this year. J. Bronn stated that the sign looks great, especially since the cutting along the rock wall had been done.

Williams Park: There was no report.

18 Junction Road: Leahy's has come for the yearly check-up, and the combustion motor needs to be replaced. The furnace had been installed in December 2011.

Gurski Homestead: *This item was discussed during the Discussion of Farmfest.*

Eriksen Farm Open Space: The barn is being painted today. Chair Dew explained some of the minor replacements that have been done on the property. The Giving Garden electrical matter has not yet been repaired. M. Carmody stated that a barn quilt would be a good addition to Eriksen Farm. Chair Dew clarified that the barn quilt squares are wooden. M. Carmody mentioned that she has a book about barn quilts. M. Carmody stated that there are also some barn quilt trails. M. Carmody offered to do some research on this matter.

Old Bridge Sanctuary: J. Bronn stated that he had visited this property last week, and there is not much activity at this point.

Deer Management: Chair Dew stated that the permits have been issued, and the First Selectman has asked for a one-page summary of the program.

The Commission moved to New Business, Discussion of Farmfest.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion of Farmfest – J. Bronn mentioned that the pumpkins were a great activity, and mentioned that the smaller pumpkins are a bit better from a cost perspective. J. Bronn stated that he had been to the Sunny Valley Preserve Open Farm Day. He stated that this event had many animals. He also mentioned that the hay rides at that event cost 75 cents per ride. Chair Dew noted that the pumpkins, the hay rides, and the bluebird houses were all very popular. Chair Dew mentioned that perhaps the food could be done by Boy Scouts next year.

M. Carmody mentioned that all the events seemed very focused on the kids, and there was not as much for the adults. She also mentioned the location of the tractors. Chair Dew mentioned that there should be more machines at the event.

S. Landis stated that there had been an author at another fair which she had attended. S. Landis stated that she would also love to see a fishing game for the kids.

M. Carmody also stated that the planning for the event should begin sooner. Chair Dew stated that the Commission now knows the approximate date of the event, and can plan well in advance.

S. Landis stated that she had received some suggestions, such as the handicapped parking location space, as well as golf carts to transport people who have difficulty walking. Chair Dew mentioned the possibility of relocating the parking to another area on site. Chair Dew stated that attendees were not aware of the handicapped parking location, which should be better marked for the next event. S. Landis suggested the possibility of a shuttle from the parking to the event location.

Plans have been received for building #4 and the privy at the Gurski Homestead.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations – No discussion/no motions.

ADJOURNMENT: M. Carmody made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM. Chair Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.