



DRAFT MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 119
Wednesday, April 1, 2015
7:00 PM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** A. Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
Present: Chair A. Dew; Vice Chair J. Bronn; Secretary/Treasurer S. Landis; Commissioner M. Carmody; Commissioner M. Dew
Absent: R. Blessey
Also Present: Recording Secretary E. Cole Prescott
- 2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 03/11/15 special – A. Dew made a motion to approve the minutes.** M. Carmody stated that the haying by J. Sivo on page 2 should be listed as Burr Farm instead of Eriksen Farm. **A. Dew added to her original motion that the minutes be approved with the modification. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
- 3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** None at this meeting. A. Dew noted that there will be a meeting with K. Oosterwald and a representative of the CT DEEP tomorrow at 10:00 AM at Happy Landings. M. Dew asked if there will be a modification to the lease agreement with K. Oosterwald. M. Dew mentioned that a lease agreement should be revised, due to the expense approved at the last meeting. A. Dew stated that she will get more information tomorrow at the meeting. A. Dew stated that after the meeting, potential modifications to the lease agreement may be discussed.
- 4. CORRESPONDENCE:** A. Dew shared copies of the *Get Out and Get Healthy* brochure from Southbury, CT.
- 5. TREASURER’S REPORT:**
- 6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**

 - a. **The Nature Center** – S. Landis: S. Landis asked permission to allow the current tenant to install a chicken coop near the back of the garage. S. Landis stated that she will be in contact with Chris Rabuse, the current tenant, and George Waltz, and have a meeting with the two of them. The chickens will be kept in an enclosure. A. Dew mentioned the area should be kept clean. **A. Dew made a motion to allow the tenant to keep a dozen (12) or less and no roosters in a contained area near the garage. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.** It was noted by the Commission that the tenant will not be permitted to keep any chickens inside the dwelling.

S. Landis discussed the tree work done on site by Bartlett. S. Landis asked the Commission not to sign any contracts for the tree maintenance on the site. S. Landis also noted that the trails need to be widened and stabilized, and she noted that the forested area needs to be worked on. She mentioned that G. Waltz had cleared the area a bit. George at Earth Tones had noted that the location of the old oil drum also needs to be cleaned near Chrissy's Garden.

b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn: A. Dew mentioned the meeting discussed during the Treasurer's Report. Dennis DiPinto, Parks & Recreation Department Director, will also be present at that meeting. S. Landis and M. Carmody mentioned that *National Wildlife* had an issue that focused on the monarch population.

A. Dew stated that Valley Presbyterian Church will be the location for car-pooling for an ecumenical Sunrise Service. A. Dew also mentioned that there will be a wedding service at Burr Farm in August or September, on which Dennis DiPinto, Parks & Recreation Department Director, will follow up on.

J. Blick entered the meeting room at 7:15 PM.

c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody: M. Carmody stated that someone from the Public Works Department had been on site, and has done a great job.

J. Bronn entered the meeting room at 7:18 PM.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew: M. Dew reported that Steve of the Public Works Department had been on site, and Bobby Fisher has taken soil samples. A. Dew has taken the soil sample to Lesko, as this is the process before liming is done. M. Dew stated that the property is muddy now, and nobody has been driving up the garden road. The gardeners are hoping to start April 15th. A. Dew stated that R. Tedesco will grade the area when it is grade-able. M. Carmody asked if each gardener cares for his or her own plot. J. Blick replied that each gardener is in charge of his or her own plot. A. Dew mentioned that compost bins will also be installed. A. Dew stated that she will inform the Commission at the next meeting of the cost of liming.

e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew: S. Landis stated that there is now a boat stored on the property. S. Landis stated that if the oil tank were to be removed, the boat would more properly be stored.

f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey, A. Dew: A. Dew mentioned that no information has yet been received from the State Historic Preservation Office. M. Dew stated that he has not received any further information about the potential Craft Center.

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody, M. Dew: M. Carmody and M. Dew have done an inspection of the property, and they noted that an air conditioning unit is in the fireplace. M. Carmody noted that it was a "good" inspection with the tenant. A. Dew and M. Dew discussed possible options for replacing the spruce trees which have been run over. The Commission also discussed the option of adding some boulders in between the trees instead of just replacing the trees. M. Dew discussed the possibility of the Commission's planting trees on site. J. Blick offered to help with the tree planting. M. Dew will determine how many trees are needed, and determine a date for the Commission to work together to plant the new trees. M.

Dew will be contacting Peter Robb. A tarp had been put down on the entire attic, which is creating a vapor barrier, and M. Dew would like to remove it. M. Dew stated that the tenant had also asked if the Commission would install a vent fan in the upstairs bathroom. M. Dew noted that the Commission should consider hiring a contractor to do this work. M. Dew will get prices for the siding project. M. Dew stated that he and M. Carmody need the combination to the barn. J. Blick stated that there may be a Girl Scout interested in doing a project for a bee hive, which she would need to start planning for approval now. S. Landis offered to work with the Girl Scout. M. Dew noted that he would be concerned of housing bees on public property. J. Blick stated that the Girl Scout would have to do the work on her own, and A. Dew suggested that the Girl Scout consider finding someone to take over the bee-keeping project after the Girl Scout has completed it.

h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn: A. Dew stated that Heather Morey finished the brochure. There are copies of the brochure available in the Land Use Office. M. Carmody stated that the brochure is very nicely done. A. Dew stated that tree work has been done, and the trails are cleaned. J. Bronn stated that he had visited the property two weeks ago, and had seen that work had been done on the property recently. There is also a rock in the parking area. J. Bronn stated that some road work may need to be done to remove the rock.

i. Deer Management – M. Dew: M. Dew stated that he had read the minutes of the last meeting, but White Tail had actually taken a total of ten deer. There is no report from the local hunters. Russ Cornelius is part of the regional Lyme Disease Task Force.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations: *The Commission moved to New Business.*

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Environmental Science Internship & High School Senior Project Possibilities: A. Dew stated that Dana Ferraro from Endicott College has asked to work on an internship with the Conservation Commission for her program of study, environmental science. A. Dew stated that this student is an Environmental Science Major who is looking to complete 120 hours of work. A. Dew stated that one of her ideas is to ask this student to either do some trail maintenance. A. Dew mentioned that the other option is to ask Dana Ferraro to compile and complete a more accurate listing of properties using the GIS system. The Commission discussed asking the student to complete the trail maps. J. Blick also suggested that a description of the trails be included in any future trail guides. The fields should also be included in any guide which is drafted.

A. Dew stated that she has also received an email from R. Blick regarding potential work with the Conservation Commission. A. Dew stated that R. Blick may be able to help with the trail guide project. R. Blick is in an environmental studies program in college.

A. Dew mentioned that the Commission has received several letters relative to work near open space properties.

J. Bronn asked if he should get some quotes about the fallen tree at Happy Landings. A. Dew mentioned that perhaps P. Discala of Sunburst Landscaping could be hired to remove the tree. A.

Dew stated that she will follow up with the Commission about the results of the meeting. A. Dew also mentioned the possibility of adding a notice to *The Penny Saver*. J. Bronn also asked if some work could be done to widen the entrance to the fields.

9. ADJOURNMENT: A. Dew made a motion to adjourn the meeting 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 May 6, 2015****