



**REVISED DRAFT MINUTES**  
*Brookfield Conservation Commission*  
**Brookfield Town Hall Room 135**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2015**  
**7:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** A. Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following people in attendance:

**Present:** Chair Alice Dew; Vice Chair Jeff Bronn; Commissioner Mac Dew; Commissioner Marji Carmody; Commissioner Julie Blick; members of the Lions Club; members of the public; Secretary Emily Cole Prescott

**Absent:** Secretary/Treasurer Stephanie Landis; Commissioner Ryan Blessey; Commissioner Mike Murphy

**2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 04/01/15: M. Dew made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, and J. Blick seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:**

a. Community Garden Discussion: Compost bins and maintenance agreement – *Lyn Lyon of 118 Long Meadow Hill Road & Susan and Michael Kearney, both of 11 Hollis Drive, were present to represent the Lions Club Community Garden.* The Conservation Commission discussed the current situation of the Community Garden with the Lions Club Community Garden representatives. Chair Dew reviewed that the Conservation Commission had built the garden and built the well, and pumped the water to the garden, graded the road to the garden, and added gravel. The Lions Club had built the shed. Chair Dew stated that up until this point, there was never an agreement as to who is to maintain the garden, etc. A. Dew stated that the well had stopped working, and was fixed within a week. Chair Dew stated that during that week's time, she had received some complaints from community gardeners. A. Dew recommended that she and L. Lyon act as liaisons for the different groups involved. L. Lyon stated that the road had been plowed in the winter, and there is now some damage to the fence, which the Lions had repaired. Mr. Kearney stated that there had been some big trucks and some rut in the road. The representatives mentioned that the snow removal caused some damage to the road area and opened up some more of the road next to the garden. Chair Dew suggested that posts be installed on either side of the entrance to the road, to close the road during the winter months. Chair Dew stated that she could not promise that the Town would grade the road until April 30<sup>th</sup>. A. Dew stated that it would be best to set some future potential dates for the opening and closing of the community garden, such as April 30<sup>th</sup> until the end of November. Chair Dew requested that a member of the Lions Club Community Garden representatives contact her each April to remind her about the seasonal opening of the garden. Mr. Davidson stated that he agrees with A. Dew's suggestion, but suggested that the dates be scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> pending weather until November 30<sup>th</sup>. A. Dew stated that she has spoken with the Director of Public Works, Ralph Tedesco, and going forward he believes that the road will continue to be graded, but the Lions

Club must contact the Director of Public Works. A. Dew stated that perhaps the Town would be able to help in the future with equipment relative to possible future improvements to the road access. Chair Dew presented a draft agreement for the Conservation Commission and the Lions Club. L. Lyon noted that the Lions Club is currently compliant with most of the draft agreement.

The location of the weed pile was discussed, and Mr. Kearney mentioned that he has since made a better location for the weed pile. He stated that he will be buying pre-made compost for the gardeners to use to “start” the pile. Last year’s weed pile was discussed by the Commission, and it was noted that the location of the pile was not meant to be permanent, but rather a temporary location. L. Lyon reviewed the requirements of the compost area, which requirements are maintained by the Rules of the Lions Club Community Garden. L. Lyon gave a copy of the Rules to M. Dew and A. Dew. (2015 Rules and Guidelines, Brookfield Lions Club Community Garden).

*Rosie Blick, resident of Brookfield, presented a proposal for the project.* She spoke about compost at the Community Garden. She has done some research and has some suggestions to move forward regarding the compost pile. R. Blick offered to build a three-bin compost area for the Conservation Commission, and she explained the purpose of a three-bin compost area. Chair Dew stated that there will only be weeds and tomato vine. J. Blick stated that material other than weeds will need to be added to the pile. Chair Dew stated that the Lions Club would be responsible to maintain and repair the compost bin. M. Dew explained where the location of some lumber is located which he had donated for work at the site. Mr. Davidson suggested that R. Blick and Mr. Kearney meet and discuss the proposed work.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:** Chair Dew stated that a letter has been sent to Heather Morey for her work at Old Bridge.

**5. TREASURER’S REPORT:** Chair Dew stated that there is still money in the budget for knapweed expense, and people in Town are very concerned about birds. Chair Dew explained that the Commission has been discussing how they would like to future of the property to move forward. Chair Dew stated that knapweed is an invasive species, and when the farmer goes to hay they must be sure the equipment is very clean as to not spread it to other fields.

**6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**

- a. The Nature Center – S. Landis – There was no report.
- b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn
  - Memo from A. Dew dated 04/02/15:

Chair Dew stated that P. Discala of Sunburst Landscaping has done some work at Happy Landings. J. Bronn stated that Trails Day is on June 6<sup>th</sup>, Saturday at noon. The brochure and t-shirt should be coming, and the event has been advertised in the CT Trails brochure. E. Cole Prescott will complete the sign permit application for approval of temporary sign placement throughout the Town. J. Bronn stated that he would try to send the information to the schools. J. Bronn stated that there are Facebook pages for Happy Landings and Williams Park on which he may be able to add information about the event. J. Bronn presented a map of Happy Landings indicating the proposed trail run and parking for the event. He explained his plan for the day of the race/walk. The adult race would be two miles, starting at the Happy Landings sign,

throughout the perimeter of the property, and through the interior of the property as indicated by J. Bronn's drawing. J. Bronn indicated the location of the kid's race, which would be approximately ½ mile. J. Bronn stated that it would take about 15 minutes for the average adult to run two miles. J. Bronn stated that the point is to host the recreation event at the park and to bring some awareness to the site. J. Bronn asked if the two-mile walk was appropriate for the first time. He mentioned where volunteers on the site would be needed. D. Timpanaro suggested that spray-painted areas be done for hopscotch and other games. J. Bronn stated that BOSLI (Brookfield Open Space Legacy) has scheduled their trail event for the morning of June 6<sup>th</sup>. J. Bronn stated that the Commission would need some help to direct kids, and perhaps some people throughout the trail run. Chair Dew suggested that the Commission bring some tents, and that the Commission plan to sell FarmFest t-shirts the day of the run/walk. J. Bronn asked that the Commissioners plan to attend around 11/11:30 AM for set-up, etc. He also mentioned that the donation boxes should be brought to the event.

A. Dew stated that she has attempted to contact the wildlife biologist, and she has to see what the cost is to have the Commission put together a plan to move forward. A. Dew and J. Bronn briefly discussed the possibilities that had been mentioned at the last meeting. The quality of hay was discussed.

c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody: M. Carmody stated that J. Sivo has sprayed. A. Dew stated that she would like to be informed of the exact dates of the spraying that had been done. M. Carmody mentioned that there will be a small wedding party at the site in the near future.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew – M. Dew stated that he is meeting with the Board at the Craft Center to discuss a potential Gurski-Craft Center alliance.

e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – Chair Dew reported that S. Landis will be testing the water for radon at the home.

f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey, A. Dew – M. Dew stated that he will be cleaning the property, as there are trees down on the trails. The Commission mentioned that FarmFest will be coming up, and Chair Dew stated that she will contact R. Blessey for some details.

- A. Dew discussion with A. Capone of CT Office of Policy & Management: Chair Dew stated that she has received a call from A. Capone of CT Office of Policy and Management, and she has relayed details of the Commission's work with CT State Historic, relative to the Gurski Homestead.

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody, M. Dew: M. Dew stated that John Tomascak of the Giving Garden is looking to renew the lease for the garden on the property. M. Dew stated that the wiring project needs to be completed for a proper outlet for the well pump. M. Dew asked if the lease should be renewed with the same rules. M. Dew presented two quotes for vinyl siding and/or painting the house. M. Dew distributed copies of the quotes, along with a sample of the possible windows for replacement. M. Dew also shared a sample of the vinyl siding with the Commission. M. Dew stated that the same look would be maintained, and the contractor has a good reputation for this work. M. Dew stated that he did not ask about two-color trim and siding. M. Dew stated that initially the idea was to restore the woodwork, but after thought and consideration, M. Dew stated that he thinks vinyl siding is a better option. The Commission compared the quotes. **Chair Dew made a motion to approve the Val-U Home Improvements estimate proposal plus windows. J. Blick seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

M. Carmody commended M. Dew for his work on this matter. M. Carmody stated that she sees the need for the installation of vinyl siding. J. Blick asked if there is any paint needed on the barn, and A. Dew replied that the barn had been painted last year.

*J. Blick left the meeting room at 8:02 PM.*

M. Carmody stated that she has been out on site, and has met F. Lollie on the site to discuss the two signs. She mentioned a dry path which someone has cut for access to Eriksen. M. Carmody mentioned that perhaps more signs are needed to delineate open space areas, and to delineate no motorized vehicles areas.

- h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn – No report.
- i. Deer Management – M. Dew – No report.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and volunteers: No discussion/no motions.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Environmental Science Internship for Dana Ferraro from Endicott College: Chair Dew reported that Dana Ferraro, the Conservation Commission's intern, will begin work on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Most of her work will focus on trail maps.

**9. ADJOURNMENT: M. Dew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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 June 3, 2015\*\*