



DRAFT MINUTES - REVISED
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
Wednesday, June 3, 2015
7:00 PM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following in attendance:
Present: A. Dew, Chair; J. Bronn, Vice Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Carmody; M. Dew; J. Blick
Absent: R. Blessey; Recording Secretary E. Cole Prescott*
Also Present: Dana Ferraro, Conservation Commission Summer Intern/Endicott College
**E. Cole Prescott prepared the draft minutes and motions from a recording of the meeting.*

3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT: D. Ferraro stated that she has been working on creating a new trail guide, and shared some of the drafts of her work with the Commission. She mentioned adding a QR code which would lead the scanner/viewer to the Conservation Commission's website or the Town Hall's website. Other pages will contain easier trail maps and what recreational activities are available at each of the trails/parks. M. Dew mentioned the Southbury trail guide as an example, and D. Ferraro replied that the organization of the guide will be done a bit differently. Upon inquiry from M. Dew, D. Ferraro replied that all of the trail maps will be more cohesive. M. Carmody asked if the Commission will be able to view the draft before the finished product, to which D. Ferraro replied in the affirmative. Chair Dew stated that D. Ferraro has started with the cover page and the table of contents, and Chair Dew asked that an example of a map in different sizes is done for review at the next meeting. Chair Dew stated that she was thinking to have all of the Town of Brookfield trails and parks, possibly including Parks and Recreation properties and BOSLI properties, but the mapping in the trail guide will depend on what is available for the other trails, which are not managed by the Conservation Commission. Chair Dew mentioned that many of the maps are already published online. Upon inquiry from Vice Chair Bronn, D. Ferraro replied that she is working from the Town Hall Land Use Office and from home. Chair Dew mentioned that she thinks the trail guide should be a bit smaller than the trail guide done by Southbury. M. Dew stated that he thinks the size of the Southbury trail map is adequate.

The Commission moved to discussion of the Trail Run scheduled this Saturday, June 6, 2015. The Commissioners will meet at 11:30 AM on site, and D. Ferraro stated that she will also attend the event.

- 2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 05/06/15 – M. Dew made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Vice Chair Bronn seconded the motion, and it carried with 5 voting: A. Dew, J. Bronn, S. Landis, M. Carmody, J. Blick, M. Dew.**

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Chair Dew stated that a wedding party will be at Burr Farm on August 29th for ceremony and pictures.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** S. Landis reported the remaining budget amount. S. Landis asked if this money will be used, and Chair Dew replied that \$8,500 was to be allocated to complete the herbicide for knapweed removal at Happy Landings. The current farmer has suggested that she cut the land soon, before the knapweed goes to seed. The Commission briefly reviewed a map of Happy Landings. Chair Dew stated that she thinks the property should be cut so the property may then be sprayed with herbicide. The herbicide would most likely be planned in July. J. Bronn stated that information from the Audubon presentation suggested that the property could be herbicided to late June/July without impact on the bobolink population.

6. **CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**

a. The Nature Center – S. Landis reported that George Waltz has brush-hogged Chrissy's Garden, and there is a new bench. The chicken coop is under construction, and the apple trees look as though they will produce well this year.

b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn reported that he was on site today, as was M. Carmody. J. Bronn mentioned the area on the map which has been mowed. The trails are thick, but still passable. It was noted that there is some standing water on the property. J. Bronn will visit the site on Saturday morning to do some spray painting. J. Bronn mentioned that an area has been cleared, the fallen tree removed, and the posts repaired.

Robin Montgomery entered the meeting room at 7:23 PM. The Lions Club helping FarmFest with parking was briefly discussed. He left the meeting room at 7:25 PM.

J. Bronn stated that he had posted information about the run on his social media, on the Facebook pages for Williams Park and Happy Landings, signs throughout the Town advertising the run, and an ad in *The Penny Saver*. M. Dew suggested that a tent be put up, a table be set up with brochures, donation box, and FarmFest t-shirts for sale. J. Bronn reviewed the map of the property with the Commission. The Commission discussed parking at the site. J. Bronn noted the sign locations advertising the run. The Commission will meet on Saturday, June 6th at 11:00/11:30 AM at Happy Landings. J. Blick suggested giving a ribbon to runners. J. Bronn mentioned that the trail run is approximately two miles. J. Bronn offered to make a flier if the Commission decides on a date for FarmFest. J. Bronn asked the Commissioners to wear the green Conservation Commission polo shirt. S. Landis suggested giving out t-shirts in the future.

c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody stated that J. Sivo would like to spray the property. She asked if F. Lollie would be available to help her install two signs on the property. M. Carmody stated that the property has been mowed. Chair Dew stated that D. Burr should be paid for the mowing of the trails. S. Landis stated that M. Carmody should submit a bill for the mowing.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew – M. Dew stated that he was on the site today, and the Town has mowed the paths. M. Dew reported that he has not yet been on site to cut trees, but he will work on some trail clearing there. M. Dew stated that Bob Fisher is getting ready to cut the property. A. Dew stated that the liming test has been done, and the fields do not need anything.

- e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – No report.
- f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey, A. Dew – M. Dew mentioned brief discussions which he had with the Conservation Commission at past meetings regarding the possibility of the Brookfield Craft Center moving to the Gurski Homestead property. M. Dew stated that he has approached the Brookfield Craft Center about this possibility, and has also mentioned it to others in the Town Hall. M. Dew mentioned that the Commission had never made a formal motion to move forward with these discussions. **M. Dew made a motion that the Conservation Commission proceeds with talks with the Brookfield Craft Center about a possible relocation of their facilities to Gurski Homestead property with any agreements to be confirmed and approved by the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen as well as any other appropriate, required reviewing Town entity. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

M. Dew stated that he would like to organize a day of cleaning for the Gurski Homestead, to remove items on sight that are in complete disrepair. He would like to order a dumpster for the site in the near future. **J. Blick moved that the property be cleaned with dumpsters on site in the near future, with help from George Waltz and from Bob Fisher. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

- g. Eriksen Farm Open Space –M. Carmody, M. Dew – M. Dew stated that the BOS and the BOF have approved the re-siding and window replacements for the house.
- h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn – A. Dew stated that the Commission has received a thank you note from Heather Morey regarding her Girl Scout project.
- i. Deer Management – M. Dew – No report.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and volunteers: No discussion.
- b. Agreement: Lions Club Community Garden: The Conservation Commission briefly reviewed the agreement with the Lions Club, which has been signed by the liaison for the Community Garden, Lynn Lion. **M. Dew made a motion to approve the Community Garden Agreement, for the First Selectman to sign. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Plan of Conservation and Development Update (POCD) – Chair Dew asked that the Conservation Commission review the document, relative to the Conservation Commission’s actions referenced in the plan.
- b. FarmFest – J. Blick asked about the possibility of having animals at the upcoming FarmFest in September, and S. Landis asked about having pony rides for the kids. Chair Dew asked M. Carmody and J. Blick to organize an event for FarmFest involving animals. J. Bronn mentioned that one of the previous comments received was that there were not enough activities for adults. The grave tour of the property cemetery was mentioned, and a hike as well as a full forge demonstration should be done. The wagon for hay rides was also mentioned. Chair Dew mentioned some of the activities that had been done in the past for adults. The Commission also

mentioned some of the vendors who had previously attended FarmFest. J. Blick mentioned the possibility of having demonstrations of what life was like when people used to live at Gurski Homestead. Chair Dew mentioned the possibility of renting a tent for an evening event on the same day.

c. 36 North Mountain Road: Planning Commission Application for a 12-lot residential affordable subdivision (Mountain Road Hollow) – The developer is Jason Sivo. Chair Dew stated that there had been an agreement with open space and some type of conserved land with the development at Carmen Hill/Granite Drive area. J. Sivo has indicated that a certain amount of money had been given to the Town at the time of the Carmen Hill/Granite Drive subdivision development. Chair Dew stated that the State of CT has some surrounding property in the area of the proposed development. Chair Dew explained the location of the property. Chair Dew mentioned that the wetlands application for this development has been approved, and the Planning Commission is now reviewing an application for the subdivision of the land. M. Dew pointed out that without the other plans for the original project, the Commission cannot fully review the application and give an informed opinion. The Commission reviewed the plans, and Commissioners noted that more information is needed. Chair Dew mentioned a note on the plan that indicates the conservation easement was previously deeded; she mentioned that this deed will need to be reviewed. Chair Dew stated that the Planning Commission decides whether the land will be conserved or money donated in lieu of open space. Chair Dew will research the location of 9.2 acres of open space noted on the proposed plans. Chair Dew stated that she will email the Commissioners with any further information.

The Commission thanked J. Bronn for organizing the Trail Run, scheduled for Saturday, June 6th.

9. ADJOURNMENT: M. Dew made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 PM. M. Carmody 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 July 1, 2015****