



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
*Brookfield Conservation Commission*  
**Brookfield Town Hall Room 129**  
**Wednesday, July 1, 2015**  
**7:00 PM**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** A. Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.  
**Present:** A. Dew, Chair; J. Bronn, Vice Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Dew  
**Absent:** J. Blick; R. Blessey; M. Murphy  
**Also Present:** D. Ferraro, Endicott College Intern for the Conservation Commission;  
E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary
  
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 06/03/15 – M. Carmody made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

*J. Bronn entered the meeting room at 7:03 PM.*

3. **GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dana Ferraro was present for discussion of agenda item 7.c. A. Dew stated that she has spoken with Dennis DiPinto, Director of Parks & Recreation, about the possibility of including the schools and other popular areas throughout the Town, such as Kids Kingdom, in the Trail Guide. A. Dew noted that D. DiPinto has offered to aid with the publication if the other Town parks are included. Birch Rocks and Weantinoge are two BOSLI (Brookfield Open Space Legacy) properties. Upon inquiry from M. Carmody as to why all the properties would not be included, A. Dew replied that there will be a main map to show where properties are located throughout the Town. She mentioned the possibility of choosing an acreage amount. For example, if a property is under five acres, it will be indicated on a map as a location, but will not have a separate map in the Guide. S. Landis stated that if BOSLI properties are included in the trail guide, it should be well noted that those properties are not owned or overseen by the Conservation Commission or the Town of Brookfield, but rather by the Brookfield Open Space Legacy. M. Dew agreed with S. Landis, that it should be clearly indicated in the Guide that the applicable properties are BOSLI's properties, and are not maintained by the Conservation Commission. D. Ferraro noted that the page before it indicates that the properties belong to BOSLI. M. Dew stated that it should be clearly listed in the Table of Contents. J. Bronn asked if BOSLI has been notified that the Commission is thinking of adding the BOSLI properties in the Trail Guide. He asked if Kenwood Terrace or the Loeb properties have a walking trail. A. Dew asked that any further comments after review of the draft Guide be sent to either A. Dew or D. Ferraro. The plans for Cadigan Park, the Still River Greenway, and the Town Beach will also be included in the Guide. D. Ferraro mentioned that her internship is approximately 120 hours, and she has completed between 80 and 90 hours at this point. J. Bronn asked if the internship will take the Commission to the point of receiving a bid from a printer. She replied that she has been attempting to locate a printer who will publish the book for a

reasonable price. The size will be approximately the same as the Southbury Trail Guide, *Get Out and Get Healthy*. J. Bronn mentioned that D. Ferraro will be done by or before August 5<sup>th</sup>, but the files are in Word and Publisher, and may be changed. D. Ferraro stated that she can fix or change the file going forward, and A. Dew mentioned that D. Ferraro is currently working in the Town Hall for the summer.

M. Carmody asked about the parking at a BOSLI property, which advertisement was noted in *The Penny Saver*. The Commission discussed the proposed parking area, as advertised. J. Bronn mentioned the location of the parking on the site.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:** A. Dew briefly reviewed the budget reports with the Commission.

**5. TREASURER’S REPORT:**

a. Connecticut Land Conservation Council: Request for Membership 2016 – S. Landis stated that she will check into what the Commission had paid to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in the past.

**6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**

a. The Nature Center – S. Landis reported that there will be many apples this year. There are a lot of ferns, and she said she needs some guidance for Chrissy’s Garden. The tenant’s chickens are looking good. S. Landis stated that the coop is being built, and will be near the garage. There are twelve chickens.

b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn stated that he had been at the site last week, and it had not yet been mowed. The Commission noted that the Trail Walk was great. K. Oosterwald had emailed some information to A. Dew, which includes some reports on knapweed. A. Dew stated that she is having some difficulty finding someone to complete the spraying for the knapweed. Crop Production Services had done it five years ago. A. Dew reviewed the email from K. Oosterwald with the Commission regarding the mowing, which mentions that the mowing is behind schedule. The price for Crop Production Services is estimated at \$5,000. A. Dew noted that the new 15-16 fiscal year budget begins today. If \$5,000 were to be used from the new budget, this would leave \$2,000 in the 15-16 FY Conservation budget. A. Dew asked if she should proceed with having CPI complete the work in August. M. Dew stated that the Commission had originally approved the work for up to \$8,500, and this estimate is now only \$5,000. (*Approval motion made at the March 11, 2015 Conservation meeting*). A. Dew explained that if the cut is done, and a seed kept to a minimum, the work can be done in August. J. Bronn asked if a permit is needed, and A. Dew replied that this spraying is a permitted use with farm land. **M. Dew made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 for knapweed spraying at Happy Landings. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody stated that J. Sivo has mowed today. M. Carmody mentioned an all-terrain vehicle has been coming from Isabel’s Way, traveling up and down the bank between the dirt road and the split rail. She noted that she has concerns about the ATV usage on the property. A. Dew stated that if the ATV is being used, the Police should be

contacted. M. Carmody stated that she will put another sign up near the split rail. A. Dew mentioned that the sign should be installed to make it very clear that there are no motorized vehicles. A. Dew stated that there will be a wedding party on site sometime within the next month or so.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – M. Dew reported that there are trees that will be taken care of on the Williams Park trails. There have been some issues with weather which inhibited mowing lately.

e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis stated that she had Master Shield there last week, and they come every three months for \$79, which is needed. There is an ant problem, and she mentioned issues with moisture and possibly mold in the future in the basement. She mentioned that the carpet should be removed and the non-bearing wall should be removed. The tenant is satisfied with the house, according to S. Landis. She mentioned that she will purchase a de-humidifier for the house.

f. Gurski Homestead – J. Bronn stated that the property has been mowed. A. Dew stated that the Parks & Recreation Department mows around the house and the trails, and others are hired to do the remainder of the mowing on the property. A. Dew stated that the Library is having a meeting on Tuesday to consider the Homestead for a new library location. M. Dew stated that he is compiling a report for the clean-up that was done at the end of June. M. Dew stated that lumber, farm materials, and other miscellaneous equipment has been saved and appropriately stored. He noted the poor condition of some of the saved items, due to the amount of time in a dilapidated area. M. Dew stated that the items that were salvaged are in the large barn where the milk room had been located. M. Dew stated that stumps had been pulled, and some trees trimmed. The rock pile has also been removed, and thirty trees have been trimmed or moved. M. Carmody stated that this is a big improvement. A. Dew mentioned that there are some people who are interested in building a new library at the Gurski Homestead. M. Dew stated that he has not had much feedback from the Craft Center Board about the possibility of relocating the Craft Center to the Gurski Homestead. M. Dew stated that he has hired a mason to replace the concrete pad at the rental house on the property.

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody stated that she has spoken with Bob Fisher, who will speak with George Waltz about an estimate to remove the fence. The other project is to clean off the foundation of the smaller shed structure. A. Dew stated that the barn looks great. M. Carmody stated the Commission should consider a split rail fence in the front of the property. A. Dew stated that she has emailed R. Blessey regarding the well pump. E. Cole Prescott asked if she should call Eastern Pre-Cast to see if they are still holding the piece made for the well pump.

h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn had no report.

i. Deer Management – M. Dew had no report.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and volunteers – A. Dew stated that a church group had called her today about the possibility of completing volunteer

work within the next two weeks. A. Dew mentioned that she will receive an email from the group with more details, such as the age range and number of volunteers. M. Dew mentioned trail clearing in Williams Park as a possible volunteer project. A. Dew stated that she will get more information to the Commission. A. Dew mentioned clearing along the pond, or a possible bird house installation.

*The Commission discussed the Girl Scout Gold Awards Project by Gabi Garizio.*

b. Girl Scout Gold Awards Project by Gabi Garizio – A. Dew stated that the G. Garizio would like to start a project regarding bees, and have a talk to educate people on what plants are good for bees, etc. J. Bronn stated that at the FarmFest a bees showcase could be done. A. Dew stated that perhaps something could be done with the Senior Center also, to distribute the proposed bee brochure. A. Dew summarized that the Commission looks favorably on the project, but S. Landis and M. Dew asked about who will take care of any necessary ongoing maintenance.

c. Trail Guide/Map: Draft prepared by D. Ferraro –

1. Emails regarding the Draft of the Trail Map/Guide – *This item was discussed above, during agenda item 3, Guests and Public Comment.*

d. 36 North Mountain Road #201500415: Planning Commission Subdivision Application – Mountain Road Hollow: Proposed 12-lot affordable subdivision – A. Dew stated that when the development had been done along Carmen Hill Road, 9.2 acres had been given to the Town along North Mountain Road at that time. This was conveyed to the Town of Brookfield for Brookfield Heights and the future subdivision at 36 North Mountain Road. The acreage is sufficient to meet the open space requirements for both subdivisions. A. Dew noted that the property conveyed to the Town has road-frontage. The Commission reviewed a GIS map of the property, showing the 9.2 acres. The Commission looks favorably on the plan presented.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. FarmFest 2015: September 19, 2015 from 11 AM to 4 PM – A. Dew asked if the Commission would like to assign duties now, and A. Dew stated that she and E. Cole Prescott will ask the Lions Club to assist with parking. M. Dew will be in charge of bluebird houses, and will bring the hay wagon. The trailer needs to be removed from the site. A. Dew stated that J. Blick had called and could not come to this meeting, but has been in touch with the Cooperative Extension about animals for FarmFest. The Commission agreed to have animals for viewing purposes only. M. Carmody has contacted Shakespeare’s Garden, who has planned to have a booth to sell items at the FarmFest. J. Bronn will advertise, and will contact BOSLI about the event. A. Dew mentioned that the Commission has some signs from previous years to use, which need to have the date changed. A. Dew will order the portable toilets. M. Carmody will invite the Historical Society. S. Landis asked about the Community Garden, and A. Dew will contact L. Lyon. M. Dew mentioned that the gardeners need to be informed that there will be no access to the road that day. A. Dew stated that she will contact the Police Department about a demonstration. S. Landis stated that she will work with the Garden Club and the Master Gardener. A. Dew stated that R. Blessey is willing to help this year at FarmFest. Roxanne Harrison will be asked to sell food on site. The Commission would also like to host a trail walk

at some point during FarmFest; the Commission agreed that 1:00 PM would be the best time for a trail walk. Kimberly Farm will also be asked to attend. The pumpkin decorations were noted, and E. Cole Prescott stated that perhaps the Commission could ask for donations for the pumpkins. J. Bronn stated that he will ask about pumpkin donations. J. Blick had brought paints and other games for the kids in years past.

**9. ADJOURNMENT: M. Dew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**