



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
*Brookfield Conservation Commission*  
**Brookfield Town Hall Room 129**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair A. 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; M. Murphy  
**Also Present:** Ex-Officio Member Sue Slater; Recording Secretary E. Cole Prescott
- 2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 02/03/16 – S. Landis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
- 3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no discussion and no motions were made regarding this agenda item.
- 4. CORRESPONDENCE:** A. Dew distributed copies of *The Habitat*. Chair Dew also informed the Commission of the upcoming Connecticut Land Conservation Council's conference, and asked if any members of the Commission would be interested in attending the event, on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. She also mentioned that Land Use Academy Basic Training is upcoming, and Commissioners will be able to attend. Chair Dew then shared information about the Housatonic River Adventure with the Commissioners.
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chair Dew reported that there is a current balance of \$5,370, which excludes an upcoming bill in the amount of \$1,500. The Commission also will be expecting an invoice in the amount of \$595.
- 6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**

  - a. The Nature Center – S. Landis – S. Landis reported that M. Dew is planning to help replace the doors on the house. S. Landis stated that she would like to use the company, Green Environ, again this year for the spraying of the apple trees and hemlocks at the Nature Center and Gurski Homestead.
  - b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn – Chair Dew shared with the Commission that Matt Melillo is interested in creating a trail at Happy Landings. A. Dew has spoken with Town Attorney Tom Beecher to draft a Hold Harmless Agreement. Chair Dew is now waiting to hear back from M. Melillo about his timeline for the project. The plan is to create a trail in a loop closest to the side on the north end about half way through the wooded portion.
  - c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody – M. Carmody stated that the farm has been busy. She would love to have someone re-blaze the trail that goes out into the woods. She would like to see it done again, as well as some signs installed at the end of the wooded area, indicating that the

area is protected open space. A. Dew stated that every person who has a conservation easement has been encouraged to install markers to delineate that the area is a conservation easement on their property. M. Carmody will let A. Dew know by next week about what should be added to the signs. M. Carmody has been asked about the possibility of antique farming equipment to be added to the site. A. Dew indicated that perhaps it would be fun to have some old barn equipment for show. She asked if it could be stored at the Nabby Road property. M. Dew mentioned that the area could be cleaned out to store the equipment. A. Dew stated that the shed to the right of the house is also most likely empty.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew – Chair Dew stated that bluebird house cleaning will be done at Williams Park. M. Dew stated that there are many down trees due to the windstorm. M. Dew has been mapping the trails, with the intention of creating useful data for the upcoming trails guide revision. M. Dew mentioned that there are so many trails at the Williams Gurski property. The trails had blazes years ago, but have since disappeared. M. Dew shared information on a program called Back Country Navigator. M. Dew stated that this data will be able to export into different formats which may then be imported into Google Maps. From there, he is not sure how to export the data into a format that may be used by the trail guide designer. M. Dew suggested that the designer be asked to attend a meeting to speak with the Commission about the work. M. Carmody asked if it would be appropriate to have a special meeting with the trail guide designer at a time convenient to the designer and the group.

e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – No report; all is fine.

f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey, A. Dew – A. Dew sent emails to the CT SHPO regarding progress on the property. A. Dew stated that it took her 2.5 months to hear back about moving the electrical panel. A. Dew stated that she has emails to prove the requests for answers to questions. Chair Dew has re-sent the email messages because she has not received any feedback. A. Dew stated that the next step is to look for and complete a grant application to hire a historic planner to work together with the community. All the drainage work has been done very well, and she will check to see if more topsoil may be dropped off.

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody, M. Dew – M. Dew has asked the tenant how everything has been going. The refrigerator seems to not always work, and he is looking for a used refrigerator for a replacement. M. Dew stated that he had mentioned that in one of the rain storms, water had been dripping out of the electrical panel. The location of the panel within the house was depicted. Either this is a sill issue, or another matter.

h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn – J. Bronn reported that there is nothing at the site. Some of the bluebird houses would need to be cleaned there also.

i. Deer Management – M. Dew – A. Dew reported that there had been one tree stand which will need to be taken down if it has not been already, and moved to another location in the future.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and volunteers – J. Bronn asked about the possibility of partnering with other organizations. S. Slater also mentioned United Way. There are many companies that offer community service work for their employees. The option to partner with companies was briefly discussed. J. Blick stated that she can send an email to the Boy Scouts to re-blaze trails. There is also the Leo's Club, which is through the Lion's Club. The Town has a Rotary Club, which may be another resource for volunteers.

b. Trail Guide/Map: Draft & Publication of Document – J. Bronn stated that he is planning to meet with the designer, Don Farrell, in the next couple of weeks. J. Bronn shared some of the notes he had added or revised on the trail guide which had been completed by the Commission's intern last summer. J. Bronn mentioned that one of the most important steps is to have consistency throughout the guide, especially in regard to the descriptions and information about each property. J. Bronn also mentioned sections on the maps where the information is not correct. A. Dew noted that the Commission may use Map Express (online GIS system) as a resource. A. Dew mentioned that unfortunately the intern had not visited each site before completing the maps. M. Dew asked about the possibility of having the designer create the maps for the Commission. M. Dew noted that many of the questions which the Commission has should be questions for the designer. M. Dew also asked about the possibility of having a QR code on the guide, so hikers would have the option to scan the code with their phones to be linked to more information about the properties and the accompanying maps. M. Dew mentioned the possibility of dividing review of each of the properties to the Commissioners, so the work load is split. The Commission agreed to schedule a special meeting for discussion of the trail guide, for the purpose of meeting with the designer to discuss moving forward with the project proposal.

c. Update: Town Hall/Police Station Drainage Project – Chair Dew shared with the Commission that she has met with the Inland Wetlands Commission about moving forward with this project, a meeting at which both Engineer Steve Trinkaus and Northwest Conservation District Soil Scientist Sean Hayden were both present. The engineered plan will move forward. When complete, this project will offer a great example of LID (low impact development) measures.

d. Update: Housatonic Valley Association Stewardship Program – Chair Dew stated that there is a meeting about the Still River scheduled at the end of March, which she is planning to attend. This specific program will most likely be done through the Parks and Recreation Department. The purpose of the program is to bring kids to plant and learn.

e. Update/Discussion: 2016 CT Trails Weekend (June 2016) – J. Blick stated that she had sent out some information via email about letterboxing and the potential to do this project on Trails Weekend. J. Blick suggested setting up letterboxing on three or four trails. It was noted that the run and the letterboxing may be done on one property. A. Dew suggested that the tree planting and Arbor Day Celebration also be done at the same event.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Connecticut Land Conservation Council: Discussion of Conference Attendance ([March 19, 2016 at Wesleyan University](#)) – Chair Dew noted that the Commission may attend this event.

b. Other Discussion – E. Cole Prescott distributed an updated draft of the Conservation Commission contact list. She asked for revisions and noted she would send it out electronically for review.

**9. ADJOURNMENT: M. Dew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. J. Blick 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 April 6, 2016\*\***