



APPROVED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Brookfield Conservation Commission

Brookfield Town Hall Room 129

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

7:00 PM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Dew called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
Present: Chair Alice Dew; J. Bronn, Vice Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer
Absent: Julie Blick; M. Dew; M. Carmody; R. Blessey; M. Murphy
Also Present: Jason Sivo; K. Oosterwald; Kathy Wandelmaier, Brookfield Open Space Legacy (BOSL); Recording Secretary E. Cole Prescott

The Commission moved directly to agenda item 3, Guests and Public Comment.

- 2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** 03/02/16 regular; 03/08/16 & 03/16/16 special – *This item is discussed below.*
- 3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:**
 - a. Jason Sivo – Jason Sivo stated that he would like to use fertilizer again this year, as he had done last year. He also indicated that in the future he would like to hay a portion of Eriksen Farm, if possible. Jason Sivo also mentioned that many dogs run throughout the property without leashes, and Chair Dew suggested that the Commission consider adding signs to the property indicating that there should be no dogs on the property without leashes. Chair Dew indicated the agreement with the Eriksens, about keeping the property for a bird sanctuary. In regard to the question of haying a portion of the property, Chair Dew replied that she will have to discuss this question with the Commissioners who oversee the property. **S. Landis made a motion to approve the fertilizer at Burr Farm in the fields as he had done previously in addition to the other fields that need to be done with the same product [that had been used last year]. Chair Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

Chair Dew made a motion to move to item 6.b., Happy Landings discussion. J. Bronn seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

- b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn – Chair Dew stated that a short film has recently been produced at this property. She had notified the Police Department of the filming. *K. Oosterwald was present for discussion of this agenda item.* K. Oosterwald stated that she would like to continue the restoration of the grasslands and profitable hayfields on the property. She noted that this is a five-year project, to control the knapweed. K. Oosterwald reported that she has tested the soil in various locations throughout the property, and recommended liming the property. To have grasses grow well, the pH should be 6 to 7, but the current pH on the property is around 5. Lime is used to sweeten the soil, to make it easier for grasses to grow. She shared a picture of knapweed growing on the field. Chair Dew stated that Wildlife Biologist Peter Pecauhn agreed with the need to control the knapweed. Chair Dew briefly reviewed his report. The Commission needs to make a decision for the type of hay to be cultivated on the property – either primary or

secondary. There is also the option of keeping the back half of the property as a wildlife sanctuary, mowing it only once a year. Chair Dew stated that she is hesitant to have the entire property limed, as the wildlife biologist had suggested that if the rear of the property is to remain a wildlife sanctuary, to not lime that section. To date, the Commission has agreed to remove the knapweed, but has not yet decided if any portion of the property will be retained for use as a wildlife sanctuary. The other option is to keep the back half of the property for cultivation of inferior, or secondary, hay. The expense to lime the entire property is approximately \$4,000, according to K. Oosterwald. Chair Dew stated that she will obtain additional information, as well as share the information discussed at tonight's meeting with the other Commissioners.

J. Bronn made a motion to move to agenda item 7.b., discussion of Trail Guide and Map. Chair Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

b. Trail Guide/Map: Draft & Publication of Document – *K. Wandelmaier of the Brookfield Open Space Legacy was present for discussion of this agenda item.* K. Wandelmaier stated that she has an ESRI account, and has added revisions to the information sent to her using that software. She asked that the Kahlo property be added instead of the Hop Brook property to the trail guide. The Commission discussed having another special meeting for the purpose of discussing revisions to the trail guide. K. Wandelmaier, upon inquiry from J. Bronn, agreed that a contribution can be made to assist with the expense of the trail guide. Chair Dew also noted that the Parks and Recreation Department has also offered some financial assistance. **Chair Dew made a motion to approve Farrell Marketing and Design to create trail guide maps for the Commission's open spaces trails, for approximately \$1,800 from the budget. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

The Commission moved back to discussion of the draft meeting minutes.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 03/02/16 regular; 03/08/16 & 03/16/16 special

03/02/16; 03/08/16 special; 03/16/16 special – **Chair Dew made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for March 2nd, March 8th and March 16th. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

At this point, the Commission resumed the agenda order.

4. CORRESPONDENCE: There was none at this meeting.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer S. Landis reported that there is \$4,451 remaining in the current 15/16 FY budget. Chair Dew noted the expense approved at tonight's meeting for Farrell Marketing to complete the maps of the trail guide.

6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

a. The Nature Center – S. Landis – S. Landis stated that G. Waltz has mowed Chrissy's Garden, and he and Bob Fisher will work on the well. (There is a broken pipe that needs to be fixed). S. Landis stated that she will take care of the two doors on the property that need to be fixed, unless M. Dew is planning to do the work. Chair Dew stated that she will check with M. Dew on this matter.

b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn – *This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.*

- c. Burr Farm –M. Carmody – Chair Dew reported that M. Carmody has sent her trail guide/map updates.
- d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew – No report.
- e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – No report.
- f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey, A. Dew – The gate has been taken down, now offering access to the Lions Club Garden. Mark Johnson is also scheduled to come out and turn the water back on.
- g. Eriksen Farm Open Space –M. Carmody, M. Dew – *This item had been discussed earlier, during Guests and Public Comment.* S. Landis stated that Wild Birds Unlimited would like to do a long-term plan for the property for use as a wildlife bird sanctuary. She asked that the Commission have a future discussion about pursuing a proposal.
- h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn – J. Bronn stated that he had been on the property two weeks ago, and would like to do some cleaning on the lake.
- i. Deer Management – M. Dew – No report.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and volunteers – This item will be discussed at the next meeting.
- b. Trail Guide/Map: Draft & Publication of Document – *This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.*
- c. Update: Town Hall/Police Station Drainage Project – Chair Dew reported that the engineering work has been done. There will be a discussion with the Northwest Conservation District about the next phase of the project.
- d. Update/Discussion: 2016 CT Trails Weekend (June 2016) – J. Bronn noted that there is a listing of the event in the Parks and Recreation Department’s Spring/Summer Guide. He will also create a flier for posting.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Other Discussion – J. Bronn stated that he had been on the Greenway last weekend. The bridge is scheduled to be installed next month.

9. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:30 PM, Chair Dew made a motion to adjourn the meeting. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

****Next regular meeting scheduled for May 4, 2016****