



DRAFT MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
Wednesday, May 4, 2016
7:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Dew called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with the following in attendance:
Present: A. Dew, Chair; J. Bronn, Vice Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Carmody, Commissioner
Absent: R. Blessey, Commissioner; M. Dew, Commissioner
Also Present: E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** 04/13/16 (special); 04/20/16 special – **M. Carmody made a motion to accept the minutes [of both the 04/13/16 and the 04/20/16 special meetings] as presented. J. Bronn seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
3. **GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chair Dew stated that the budget funds for this fiscal year have been depleted. Chair Dew stated that she will send a report to S. Landis for her records.
6. **CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**
 - a. The Nature Center – S. Landis – S. Landis reported that Bob Fisher is working on the well, and will run the water down to the stream. The area down by the well will dry out, as well as Chrissy's Garden and the area down below. S. Landis has scheduled the door replacement. M. Carmody has met the resident of the property.
 - b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn – J. Bronn thought that the vision for the rear field would be discussed tonight, and asked if the Commission would prefer to postpone the conversation until M. Dew is present. Chair Dew indicated that she has not yet heard back from Matt Melillo, about the possibility of a trail project.
 - Farming/Property Plan Discussion – Chair Dew suggested that liming be done in the front of the property. Chair Dew expressed concern about determining what the Commission is to maintain and what the farmer is to maintain, and noted that she would like the Commission to be mindful of not setting any precedents. *There was a recommended motion, but no one made or seconded the recommendation.* Chair Dew suggested that the Commission continue to commit to reducing the knapweed on the property. M. Carmody, S. Landis and J. Blick agreed that the rear of the property should be left as a wildlife habitat. J. Bronn expressed concern about having the property mowed, as there is much public interest about the land. M. Carmody suggested that this discussion is tabled, until Commissioner M. Dew may also attend the meeting.
 - c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody – M. Carmody mentioned an earlier incident with a lost hiker, who had been found. Chair Dew stated that there will be ongoing efforts to better inform emergency services of full access to the properties.
 - d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew – M. Dew has met with a Boy Scout Troop to discuss possible work on the trails.
 - e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – S. Landis reported that the radon tank for the water will be changed.
 - f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey, A. Dew – Chair Dew stated that the water for the garden has been turned on, and is working.

The Cemetery on site was briefly discussed. Chair Dew informed S. Landis, that provided she had permission from the association which oversees the Cemetery, she would be able to move forward with completing

some work to uncover the stones, and make them easier to see. S. Landis stated that she has, and will continue to, coordinate this project with the association overseeing the Cemetery.

Chair Dew stated that the house will need to be shingled in wood. Chair Dew also reported that she has not yet heard back from CT SHPO about the projects on the site.

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody, M. Dew – Chair Dew explained that at the last meeting, the Commission had been asked by J. Sivo about haying a portion of this property. M. Carmody noted that the property was to be set aside as a bird sanctuary. After discussing the question of haying a portion of the property, the Commission unanimously agreed that the property should be left as is.

M. Carmody asked the Commission for permission to hire someone to complete work behind the lower barn near the kiosk. Chair Dew suggested that M. Carmody speak with G. Waltz about the work. The condition of the kiosks on several open space lands was also briefly discussed.

h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn – J. Bronn reported that the trails on this property are clearly marked.

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 – Chair Dew asked if the Commission would prefer to schedule another special meeting to review the trail guide. J. Bronn mentioned that the Commission needs to gather pictures for the guide, and he also noted that the Still River Greenway should be included. J. Bronn mentioned that pictures which include people are more engaging than pictures of just the lands. M. Carmody pointed out that the map of Eriksen Farm is not accurate. Chair Dew asked that all of the Commissioners review the guide for the final draft.

c. Update: Town Hall/Police Station Drainage Project – Chair Dew stated that this project is now on hold until the Greenway is finished. No work has been done to the drainage area.

d. Update/Discussion: 2016 CT Trails Weekend (June 2016) – J. Blick had briefly reviewed how letterboxing works at the beginning of the meeting, and she now re-reviewed the matter. J. Blick mentioned that there are other Girl Scout Troops who are also willing to help blaze trails throughout Town. J. Bronn mentioned that the activities will take place simultaneously. The Commission will put out signs for parking, and the events will start at noon. Chair Dew stated that the Commission will also host its annual Arbor Day Celebration at this event.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Other Discussion – No additional discussion/no motions.

9. ADJOURNMENT: M. Carmody made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Chair 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 1, 2016****