



DRAFT MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
Wednesday, July 6, 2016
7:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Dew called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM with the following in attendance:
Present: Chair Dew; M. Dew; S. Landis; M. Carmody; J. Blick; J. Bronn
Absent: R. Blessey
Also Present: Sue Slater, Ex-Officio Member; E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** 05/04/16 – **M. Carmody made a motion to accept the draft minutes [of the May 4th meeting] as presented. Chair Dew seconded the motion, which carried with A. Dew, M. Carmody and S. Landis voting in favor of the motion.**

J. Blick arrived at 7:05 PM.
3. **GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** No motions.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A. Dew distributed copies of *The Habitat*.
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** The new 16/17 FY will soon open. Chair Dew informed S. Landis that she will send the budget information to her.
6. **CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**
 - a. The Nature Center – S. Landis – S. Landis reported that she will be meeting with G. Waltz and would like to possibly purchase new benches for the property. S. Landis reported that work on Chrissy’s Garden is needed, and she will pursue coordination of that work.
 - b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn –
 - **Farming/Property Plan Discussion:** Chair Dew informed the Commission that she has not yet heard back from the farmer of the property. The property will need to be mowed before additional work to control the knapweed is done. A. Dew has asked to have a soil test showing that lime is necessary, and since this request, there has been no information from the farmer. M. Carmody asked about the lease contract, and Chair Dew replied that there is a written contract with the farmer, of which J. Bronn has a copy.
 - c. Burr Farm –M. Carmody – M. Carmody reported that a bench has been mistakenly ruined, but the person who accidentally hit it has since apologized. Work will be done to repair the bench. M. Carmody mentioned that one of the rails near the kiosk needs to be secured. M. Carmody also mentioned the topic of riding horses on open spaces throughout the Town, and asked if there are any rules and regulations specific to the topic. Chair Dew replied

that there is a Zoning regulation which monitors the number of horses a resident may have on his or her property, but there is not a regulation relative to horseback riding on open space. Chair Dew suggested that the Commission continue to monitor the situation.

J. Bronn arrived at 7:13 PM.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew – M. Dew reported that Bob Fisher is haying the fields. M. Dew stated that at Trail Days Boy Scouts had done much work on the red trail by clearing and completing general repairs. M. Dew stated that he will also be out clearing and widening some of the looped trail to show the trail listed in the guide.

e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – S. Landis stated that the tank for the water radon remediation has been installed. The radon air test is also complete, and there is no need for radon air remediation.

f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey, A. Dew – Chair Dew reported that the Town has been awarded a \$10,000 matching grant to begin the process to start compilation of a master plan for Gurski Homestead, which is the next step SHPO requires. Chair Dew indicated that she has already started drafting the narrative for the request for proposal document. **Chair Dew called for a vote, asking which members would be in favor of retaining the name of Gurski Homestead, and which members are in favor of pursuing the name change from the Gurski Homestead to the Brookfield Homestead, as had been previously proposed. Chair Dew, M. Carmody, S. Landis, and J. Blick voted to retain the current name: The Gurski Homestead. J. Bronn voted in favor of pursuing a name change to The Brookfield Homestead. M. Dew did not vote.** Based on the vote, the name change proposal will not be pursued at this time.

- Grant Application Update – *Please see above update.*

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody, M. Dew – The rent amount collected by the Town will be corrected by the current tenant. There was also mention of debris near the garden, which will need to be hauled away. M. Dew indicated that he has sent several emails to John Tomascak, one of the former contacts for the Giving Garden at Eriksen and has not heard anything back. There was also re-wiring for the pump that needed to be done, which has not been completed. There was brief mention about poisonous hemlock, which is growing on many of the properties that the Commission oversees.

h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn – J. Bronn mentioned that the area has been quite busy with hikers. J. Bronn suggested that the Commission consider parking options at the site, as there is inadequate parking now available.

i. Deer Management – M. Dew – M. Dew reported that seven deer have been taken by the local hunters. He noted that these numbers are quite low. Chair Dew indicated that the deer seem to be more aware of hunting styles. Chair Dew also mentioned that other municipalities are considering options for coyote management.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and Volunteers – This item will be discussed at the next meeting. No motions.

b. Trail Guide/Map: Draft & Publication of Document – BOSLI has donated \$200 toward the creation of the trail guide/map. There was brief discussion about the future location delineation of people in the trails for responding emergency services. E. Cole Prescott suggested that in the future this information be included in the guide. Also, the Commission agreed to add something about emergency contact information for the Town and Know Your Location.

J. Bronn mentioned the section of the trail guide denoting credit for the work. Chair Dew mentioned that she will research this matter and let the designer know. Chair Dew also mentioned several smaller revisions that should be added. M. Carmody mentioned some revisions to the Burr Farm map. The Commission agreed to host another special meeting for discussion of the trail guide.

c. Other Discussion: CT Trail Days – Chair Dew noted that this was a successful event, with ten people attending for the letterboxing. The day was hot, but the need for more promotional signage was mentioned. BOSLI also had a trail clearing event on that date.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Other Discussion – E. Cole Prescott mentioned one of the trails, and it was mentioned that this trail is overseen by BOSLI. The recommendation was to contact BOSLI regarding this property.

9. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:08 PM, M. Carmody made a motion to adjourn the meeting. S. Landis voted in favor of the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Please contact Stephanie Landis: 203-775-4545 if you cannot attend the Meeting

****Next regular meeting scheduled for August 3, 2016****