



DRAFT MINUTES
Special Meeting
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
7:00 PM

Call to Order: Chair Alice Dew called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Present: Chair A. Dew; Vice Chair J. Bronn; Ex-Officio Member S. Slater; M. Dew; J. Blick; M. Carmody; Treasurer/Secretary S. Landis

Absent: R. Blessey

Minutes of Previous Meeting (03/01/17): Chair Dew indicated one correction, to move information about Green Environs work under the Nature Center and the Gurski Homestead categories. **J. Blick made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted change. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

Guests and Public Comment: None.

Correspondence:

- Chair Dew noted distribution of *The Habitat* for the record.
- Chair Dew noted that the owners of 20 Christian Lane have offered to sell property to the Town of Brookfield. Chair Dew explained the location in relation to the Nature Center. Chair Dew briefly explained future options to connect existing open space properties throughout the Town. The property is 3.95 acres. Much of the property has wetlands. Chair Dew stated that the Town has an account specific for the future purchase of property only. J. Blick suggested asking the property owner about possible donation of the land.

J. Bronn entered the meeting room at 7:07 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Chair Dew and S. Landis reported the remaining amount in the budget. Chair Dew reviewed several purchases made throughout the month. S. Landis will reconcile the account.

Current Project Reports:

- a. The Nature Center: The apple trees have been pruned. G. Waltz and S. Landis will soon work on Chrissy's Garden.
- b. Happy Landings: J. Bronn stated that he visited the site about two weeks ago and everything looked appropriate. The soil test has not yet been done. Chair Dew mentioned that the

UCONN website has free information about soil testing. Chair Dew has not yet heard from the Congregational Church about the Easter summer service, and Chair Dew has worked on this matter to ensure proper paperwork had been completed.

- c. Burr Farm: M. Carmody stated that she has been asked about mowing the trail. Chair Dew asked M. Carmody to speak with First Selectman Steve Dunn about mowing the trail. S. Slater also agreed to speak with First Selectman Dunn about this matter. M. Carmody stated that she has been approached by a resident to ask about a mountain bike trail, which she agreed to bring to this meeting for discussion. Chair Dew stated that people already ride mountain bikes throughout the trails, but there is no specific trail dedicated for this purpose. M. Carmody stated that she will ask for additional information.
- d. Williams/Gurski Open Space: The water is running for the community garden, and the road closed sign and closure has been removed.
- e. 18 Junction Road: The mouse traps at the house are working well.
- f. Gurski Homestead: The tenant asked for some repairs at the property. Chair Dew stated that wood shingling needs to be done on one side of the house.
- g. Eriksen Farm Open Space: M. Carmody has not yet heard back about a project she is working on with the Shillings. M. Dew asked about the status of the lease for the Giving Garden with Kiwanis. M. Dew stated that a letter had been sent to John Tomascak to have the lease signed and to complete some outstanding electrical work for use at the garden. The field is still designated as a wild bird sanctuary and is mowed once annually.
- h. Old Bridge Sanctuary: There was no report. Chair Dew asked J. Bronn to check the property.
- i. Deer Management: There was no report. A tree stand has been removed. M. Dew stated that more property needs to be covered by the hunters, and he would like to discuss the possibility of using Burr Farm and private land.

Old Business:

- a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and Volunteers: Chair Dew reported that she has received a phone call from an organization, looking to clean up some of the properties. S. Landis stated that she has received a phone call asking about cleaning up the cemetery area. The stones that have been uncovered must be brushed off, and Chair Dew replied that the Conservation Commission had been previously instructed not to alter anything in the historical cemetery at the Gurski Homestead.
- b. 54 Obtuse Rocks Road: S. Slater stated that she has contacted Atty. Tom Beecher, and now there is a phone call into FirstLight. Chair Dew explained that FirstLight owns property below the 210 contour line, and the Town owns the property above the 210 line. Chair Dew indicated that Atty. Beecher had mentioned that the deeded land noted that passive recreation only was permitted. The next steps are to determine what will be permitted with FirstLight, as well as the Town's deed of the property. Chair Dew stated that the Conservation Commission is only an advisory committee, and the application would need to be submitted to the Planning Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission. S. Slater stated that at a previous Lake Lillinonah Authority meeting, the Authority was planning to work with CCA, LLC. M. Dew questioned the need for this project, and S. Slater mentioned that the primary purpose is to have a more centralized location. S. Slater stated that there is a current dock in Brookfield for use by Lake Lillinonah Authority; however, the purpose of this project is to relocate the boat docks to this location. Chair Dew reiterated that the Commission is an advisory board, and suggested that a representative may return to the Commission to discuss

the project in more detail. M. Dew mentioned concern about building a dock and shed in this area, and if there are alternative locations, he would prefer to use the alternative.

New Business:

- a. Earth Day – Gurski Homestead – April 22, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM: Chair Dew stated that there will be some small chickens at the event. Shakespeare’s Garden will show people how to plant different types of trees. J. Blick discussed planting a pollinator garden on site. Chair Dew noted that the Gurski Homestead Ad-Hoc Committee will be hosting the 3:00 PM informational session. The trail guides will be offered, each for a \$5 suggested donation. Chair Dew will have small planting tools and small seedlings in cups to take home. Chair Dew stated that she and M. Dew will compare tent prices. There was unanimous approval by the Commission to purchase a tent for the event. Chair Dew asked the Commission for other ideas to complete at the event.
- b. CT Trails Weekend – Still River Greenway – June 3, 2017 at noon: J. Bronn stated that he has spoken with Dennis DiPinto, who has some parking concerns for this event. There was discussion about re-focusing the event for runners. J. Bronn stated that those who attend will be required to find first come, first serve parking. Chair Dew stated that there is a parking lot with many spaces at 777 Federal Road. J. Bronn noted that the run will be no more than forty minutes.
- c. Other Discussion: J. Blick asked about cleaning dog waste throughout the trail, and Chair Dew suggested that J. Blick contact D. DiPinto about this matter.

Adjournment: J. Bronn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.