

**DRAFT MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL – ROOM 129
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2017
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: A. Dew, Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Carmody, Commissioner; J. Bronn, Vice Chair; J. Blick, Commissioner; Tony Cappiello, Commissioner

Absent: R. Blessey; M. Dew

Also Present: S. Slater, Ex-Officio Member

Draft Minutes prepared by E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 04/12/17 – **S. Landis made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2017 meeting. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT: S. Slater noted a recent appointment to the Conservation Commission: Tony Cappiello. M. Carmody noted that there is a hike scheduled at Burr Farm tomorrow morning, and she was expecting J. Sivo to attend this meeting. She has informed J. Sivo of the hike schedule.

Tony Cappiello entered the meeting room at this time. Members introduced themselves. A. Dew briefly explained some of the work the Conservation does, as well as the various properties the Commission oversees throughout the Town.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was none.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Chair Dew and S. Landis briefly reviewed the Treasurer’s Report.

CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

- a. The Nature Center: S. Landis reported that the apple trees are being sprayed, and she has met with G. Waltz to review work along the stone wall.
- b. Happy Landings: Chair Dew noted that the farmer who hays Happy Landings has informed the Commission that the soil is acidic. The question is whether the Commission would prefer to keep the back half as wildlife and to have hay in the front. Once the lime is applied, the habitat will change. A. Dew noted that the Commission had a wildlife biologist who had suggested brush-hogging be done once a year to foster a wildlife habitat. A. Dew indicated that she is not sure of the cost to brush-hog the entire site. S. Landis mentioned that she will ask G. Waltz about an estimated cost to brush-hog the entire property. The knapweed needs to be removed throughout the entire site. Spraying has been done over the past two years, and the Commission has made a dedicated effort to maintain the program. It takes approximately three to four years to see some results of the spraying. The site is sprayed in the fall, before snow. There are a number of grants for which the Commission may research for wildlife sanctuary areas. Chair Dew mentioned that the Commission is addressing the knapweed

concern. J. Bronn stated that he feels to have the back as wildlife is more relevant to public use of the property. There was discussion about preservation of some of Happy Landings for bobolinks. There is wildlife diversity throughout the area. J. Bronn stated that the Commission will not pay for the liming of Happy Landings due to no documentation of soil testing.

- c. Burr Farm: M. Carmody has asked J. Sivo to brush-hog the field twice a year.
- d. Williams/Gurski Open Space: Chair Dew thanked everyone for participating in the Earth Day event. Chair Dew has sent thank you notes to everyone who is not part of the Commission who volunteered.
- e. 18 Junction Road: S. Landis stated that some hazardous trees along the power lines have been removed, and spring clean-up has been done. Septic systems are scheduled to be pumped in September.
- f. Gurski Homestead: Chair Dew briefly explained the easements the State has with the Town on this property. The Town has received a grant from the Trust for Historic Preservation, to have a study done of the property, which was required by the State Historic Preservation Office. The Town is now currently completing the study. Based on results of public comment, residents currently view the site as a place for recreation.
- g. Eriksen Farm Open Space: The Kiwanis will continue to host the Giving Garden on the site.
- h. Old Bridge Sanctuary: No report.
- i. Deer Management: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and Volunteers: Chair Dew stated that there are people willing to volunteer, and the Commission should consider additional projects.

J. Bronn entered the meeting room.

- b. 54 Obtuse Rocks Road: Proposal: S. Slater provided a brief update.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. CT Trails Weekend – Still River Greenway – J. Bronn asked if the Commission would like to have additional advertising around town. Not many volunteers are needed for this event.
- b. Other Discussion – The Commission briefly reviewed Happy Landings.

ADJOURNMENT: J. Blick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.