



REVISED DRAFT MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 119
May 2, 2012 at 7:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman A. Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and established a quorum of members:

Present: Chair A. Dew, Vice Chair R. Blessey, Secretary/Treasurer S. Landis, M. Murphy

Absent: W. Mercer, M. Carmody, J. Bronn, R. Manning

Also Present: K. Yates, Recording Secretary E. Cole

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 04/04/12 –

R. Blessey made a motion to approve the minutes from the 04/04/12 meeting. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

3. GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. K. Wolff – Dog Park –

K. Wolff and L. Allen were present from Kanine Kingdom to discuss the potential dog park location. K. Wolff stated that he is proposing the Happy Landings location instead of the Eriksen Farm property. K. Wolff stated that much of the work for the dog park cannot be completed until all of the approvals have been obtained. A. Dew noted that this commission is advisor to the Board of Selectmen. K. Wolff stated that this project will be self-funded by donations, and will be completely fenced in with double doors, and a smaller fenced-in area similar to New Milford's park. K. Wolff stated that he would like the foundations to be done through the Parks and Recreation Department. After that time, Kanine Kingdom will go through the 501c non-profit approval. K. Wolff stated that the all maintenance and clean-up will be handled by Kanine Kingdom, the Parks and Recreation department will mow the lawn occasionally. There will be a committee formed shortly after approvals are granted to create and post the rules for the dog park. The names and contact information for the main contact people will be clearly posted at the dog park location. L. Allen also noted that there will be a website for the dog park. A. Dew asked if the dog park will cover the liability if one dog bites another dog. K. Wolff stated that he believed that this was a personal liability issue. A. Dew also stated that going directly to the fence line would be the best for the Commission. A. Dew noted that it would be better if there were no path between the fence and the wall.

Laura Vologler-Marston, a resident of Brookfield, who lives near Happy Landings, was present to ask questions about the project. Eileen Jelinski was also present to ask about the application. Ms. Vologler-Marston borders Happy Landings Farm and asked how close to the other resident's property that the dog park would be located. R. Blessey and A. Dew pointed out the location of the dog park on the map. Ms. Vologler-Marston asked if out of town residents could use the dog park as well, and R. Blessey stated that the dog park could be used by out of town residents. Ms. Jelinski asked about parking and the available space to increase the parking. R. Blessey noted

that there is potential in that location to have up to forty parking spaces. R. Blessey noted that there are currently twelve parking spaces on the property. R. Blessey noted that currently during the day there are two to six cars in the area. Ms. Vologler-Marston asked if there will be any patrol of the dog walking, and Ms. Vologler-Marston noted that some people do not clean up the space. L. Allen responded that a dog park will hopefully help with the clean up issues and the loose dog walking issues.

J. Bronn entered the meeting room at 7:14 PM.

Ms. Vologler-Marston asked if herbicides or insecticides are used on the property. M. Murphy noted that two years ago the property was sprayed for the weeds. Ms. Vologler-Marston asked if this is the final location of the dog park. Ms. Vologler-Marston noted that her other concern is that this location is closed to the other residents. R. Blessey noted that there are not many sections where the dog park can be located where it is not near residential property. R. Blessey responded that other locations were considered, but that this location was determined to be the best because of the noise already present on Route 25. L. Allen noted that there is usually not a lot of noise from other local dog parks. R. Blessey stated that this vote tonight is only a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen who will make the final decision at their meeting. R. Blessey stated that at the First Selectmen meeting, there will be time for public comment.

R. Blessey made a motion to send a memo to the Board of Selectmen recommending a dog park at Happy Landisgs per the drawing and per the comments that Mr. Wolff made in the minutes once their group is formed. M. Murphy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

b. Jason Sivo – Fertilization of Burr Farm –

Jason Sivo stated that he would like to spray the property. M. Murphy asked if J. Sivo was to spray it or to hire someone. J. Sivo stated that he would spray the property himself. A. Dew noted that there were some issues in the past with spraying one of the farms. A. Dew stated that the DEEP stated that the Commission is not obligated to notify the neighbors, but it may be easier to notify them. J. Sivo stated that this is a spray. R. Blessey noted that there needs to be an MSDS about the spray. R. Blessey stated that this information needs to be kept in the file. J. Sivo stated that after the spray is dry, there is no longer a problem and residents will be able to walk on the property. A. Dew stated that she would like signs out after the property is sprayed at the entrances and major walking areas in the park. J. Sivo stated that he has used this fertilizer at his farm, and that it works out well.

J. Sivo will contact A. Dew with the Material Safety Data Sheet information and the dates that he plans to spray the property with fertilizer.

R. Blessey made a motion to approve the use of fertilizer at Burr Farm by J. Sivo provided that he submits the Materials Safety Data Sheet to the Commission, post signs, and that A. Dew contact the State. J. Bronn seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

R. Blessey made a motion to give J. Sivo a key to the barn at Eriksen Farm. J. Bronn seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Minutes of Other Boards & Commissions: 04/05/12 Planning; 04/19/12 Planning
- b. A. Dew noted that the Commission received notification that it was re-certified as an Arbor Day Tree City and will therefore be eligible for some grants throughout the year.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a. S. Landis reported that there is \$3235.00 remaining in the budget. R. Blessey asked how much of that amount is going to be used at the Nature Center. S. Landis stated that she would like to have some fencing done near the driveway. R. Blessey stated that G. Waltz and he had inspected the driveway, and G. Waltz noted that the driveway would need to be filled and repaired. R. Blessey noted that there is some time to have an application submitted before the Inland Wetlands Commission to repair the driveway. R. Blessey stated that G. Waltz could repair the driveway, and the Commission agreed to use \$3200.00 to repair the driveway.

R. Blessey made a motion to allow S. Landis to spend up to \$3,200.00 to have the driveway repaired. M. Murphy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

J. Bronn noted that if the Commission were to distribute the trail guides, maybe the printing could be professionally done and maybe the money could be used for that amount. S. Landis stated that there is about \$1500.00 in the Bluebird trail guide fund.

6. CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

- a. The Nature Center – Stephanie Landis
S. Landis stated that the invasive and tree work will start within the next three weeks.
- b. Happy Landings – Mike Murphy-Windmill Progress/Mowing
The windmill was discussed, and it was noted that D. DiPinto is overseeing the windmill project. M. Murphy will contact Gentile Tree to have the tree work completed in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.
- c. Burr Farms –Marji Carmody
The Commission discussed the Burr Farm earlier in the meeting. The Commission noted that M. Carody will contract \$4,000.00 worth of work on fence lines and tree removal at Burr Farm.
- d. Williams/Gurski Open Space- M. Murphy, A. Dew
A. Dew noted that the pond has been stocked, and R. Blessey noted that there will be a plan for the tree work in Williams Park. A. Dew noted that she will walk the park with the company hired to complete the tree work. R. Blessey will contract \$4,500.00 for tree work at Williams Park.
- e. 18 Junction Road – Stephanie Landis
S. Landis stated that a walk-through of the property should be done. S. Landis noted that the lease is renewed every three years, and was renewed on September 1st.
- f. Gurski Homestead - M. Murphy, R. Blessey, A. Dew
R. Blessey noted that he will contract up to \$1,500.00 for the orchard at the Gurski Homestead.

A. Dew noted that the Girl Scouts planted the orchard and the flowers in the front. A. Dew noted that the Girl Scouts did a great job. A. Dew noted that there is a dumpster on the property that has been pretty much filled. R. Blessey suggested that the trees be fenced in to protect from the deer. A. Dew stated that at some point the entire orchard should be enclosed. R. Blessey noted

that the trees need to be fenced in soon. A. Dew stated that she will look to see if she has any landscape fabric that can be used. R. Blessey stated that he is creating a watering apparatus for the orchard. R. Blessey stated that by the end of the weekend, he should have the work done for the watering apparatus.

- Grant Application Update/Discussion

E. Cole gave a copy of a draft grant application to R. Blessey for his review, and R. Blessey stated that he will be in contact with another engineer to review the property. A. Dew stated that she believes that some of the members of the Commission should meet with the State about the property.

R. Blessey noted that the garden will be moved, and that the Lions Club has been contacted about the movement of the garden. R. Blessey noted that the Parks and Recreation Department is in charge of the garden. R. Blessey stated that the water tower will still be done, and R. Blessey noted that he has contacted M. Johnson about pumping water from the brook, and R. Blessey noted that M. Johnson would like to create a water pump. M. Murphy stated that he believes that the Gurski Homestead Commission had applied for a grant for this project years ago.

K. Yates noted that there may be some grants available for community gardens. R. Blessey noted that the garden has a new picnic table.

A. Dew stated that the lower door on the barn has been closed.

- g. Eriksen Farm Open Space—M. Carmody, R. Blessey

M. Murphy stated that the kiosk is built. A. Dew stated that a map is usually put at the kiosk along with some tick information. M. Murphy noted that he tilled the garden last week. R. Blessey asked M. Murphy if there is a sign for dog walking on that property. R. Blessey stated that the sign would be good to put on the kiosk.

- h. Land Acquisition/Inventory - Ferry Farm Property

A. Dew stated that the Ferry Farm property is on the market.

A. Dew noted that something the Commission should consider is the way that the Commission considers how subdivision open space is designated and acquired.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Trail Guides-Maps and Table of Contents for next printing: Report on project

J. Bronn stated that he thinks the project may be better if done professionally. M. Murphy stated that the Commission should find a vendor to create a map and put together trail guides. M. Murphy suggested that possibly a Planning company should be contacted to create the maps and the trail guides for the property.

J. Bronn stated that he has been on the Greenway Trail. A. Dew stated that Phase 1 was the parking lot, and eventually the Greenway will map out north toward Four Corners.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a.

R. Blessey made a motion to adjourn at 8:29 PM. M. Murphy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

****Please contact Stephanie Landis: 203-775-4545 if you cannot attend the Meeting****
****Next regular scheduled meeting for June 6, 2012****