



DRAFT MINUTES
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
Wednesday, January 7, 2015
7:00 PM

A. Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, with the following in attendance:

Present: A. Dew, Chair; R. Blessey, Vice Chair; M. Dew, Commissioner; J. Blick, Commissioner

Absent: S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Carmody, Commissioner; J. Bronn, Commissioner

Also Present: W. Davidson, Ex-Officio Member, Recording Secretary Emily Cole Prescott

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **11/05/14:** A. Dew made a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2014. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
- **12/05/14:** M. Dew made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5th meeting. J. Blick seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
- **12/30/14:** This item continued to the next meeting, as not enough members were present who had attended this meeting.

GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chair Dew mentioned that Susan Pacific of West Hartford will be sending a check for \$75 for the Bluebird Fund in honor of Angelo Panela, who had lived on Pine Street and was interested in birds.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chair Dew reported approximately \$11,000 remaining in budget for the year.

CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:

- **Nature Center:** Julie's son, Kenny, has put together one of the two picnic tables in the garage. Chair Dew asked J. Blick to thank Kenny for his work. The table is next to the garage in the grassy area.
- **Happy Landings:** A. Dew has sent an email to Gary Gaydosh regarding the haying and putting together a meeting before the next haying season occurs. The type of haying and the different types of hay produced from haying either early, mid or late season were briefly discussed. Chair Dew asked the Commission if the purpose of haying Happy Landings is for the quality of hay for the farmer or for bird nesting. It was noted that the Gurski Homestead and Eriksen Farm are both designated as bird areas. R. Blessey stated that in his opinion, the purpose of the haying is to keep the field from over-growing. W. Davidson stated that he views the Commission's first priority is to conserve the land over the long run. M. Dew

stated that the long term objective for Happy Landings was to keep the field as a field. A. Dew stated that she thinks it would be worth learning about hay and what can be done on the field. M. Dew stated that the cost of what the farmer wants to do will be easily offset by the cash the farmer will get for the sale of the hay, eventually. This is the purpose for the five-year lease, and he noted the importance of the farmer in the role of maintaining the field. Chair Dew replied that the Commission will speak with the farmer regarding the haying of the property.

- **Burr Farm:** No report. No motions.
- **Williams/Gurski Open Space:** M. Dew stated that there are a few trees down around the trails where he has walked.
- **18 Junction Road:** No report. No motions.
- **Gurski Homestead:** This item discussed below.
- **Eriksen Farm:** M. Dew has spoken with Turco regarding the siding and getting an estimate on siding, repair, sanding, painting and new windows, but he has not yet received the quotes. M. Dew mentioned that he will work on this matter. M. Dew stated that he has some hardware for the fence between the shed and the lean-to. Chair Dew stated that the barn looks good.
- **Old Bridge Sanctuary:** No report. No motions.
- **Deer Management:** M. Dew stated that there have been a couple of reports about hunters too close to residences, and the hunters have since willingly moved their setups, although these setups were not necessarily too close to the property lines. Chair Dew stated that some of the public has vandalized the deer stands and cameras. M. Dew stated that more public properties designated as locations to hunt are needed. The Conservation Commission allows permitted hunting on specific town-owned lands; only bow hunting from deer stands is permitted as part of this program. Chair Dew mentioned other towns which now have mountain lion problems, due to mismanagement of deer.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. List of Potential Projects: No report. No motions.
- b. Tree City Recertification Application: 2014 Calendar Year: E. Cole Prescott stated that she has been working on the application, which will most likely be complete by the end of the week. She asked A. Dew to review the completed application by tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. 4 Murphys Lane: A. Dew reviewed the map of 4 Murphys Lane with the Commission. A. Dew reviewed the contours and the wetlands soils areas with the Commission. She also reviewed the potential parking locations. A. Dew reviewed the history of the property, and noted that the assessment is \$127,000. W. Davidson asked what the Conservation Commission would say if the applicant would want to donate the land. A. Dew asked what the Commission would propose to do with the land, and W. Davidson replied that this would increase the amount of open space in the Town. W. Davidson noted that there are the following issues: 1.) no access to this property; 2.) no parking, although R. Blessey noted that one or two parking spaces may possibly be added. He also noted the need of a possible bridge on site for the parking. W. Davidson stated that the piece of land hooks into the open space already owned by the Town. W. Davidson mentioned that the parcel is not highly developable.

W. Davidson summarized that it would be nice to have the parcel to increase the conserved land percentage, but it does not add recreational value. W. Davidson will follow up with the property owner on this matter.

b. Nomination & Election of Officers for the 2015 Calendar Year: A. Dew stated that this matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. Gurski Homestead Restoration Plan: A. Dew stated that she and M. Dew have spoken with First Selectman William Tinsley about the meeting with the State Historic which was held on December 30th. A. Dew stated that the First Selectman has also read the email from Laura Mancuso and the notes from the meeting on December 30th. A. Dew stated that she and M. Dew were told in a meeting this morning with the First Selectman that the First Selectmen thought it would be more appropriate if the Commission responded to him and he responded to the State Historic Commission. M. Dew summarized that this Commission has no further contact with the State Historic Preservation Office. A. Dew reviewed the email from the State Historic Preservation Office with the Commission. No motions.

A. Dew made a motion to amend the agenda. R. Blessey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. A. Dew made a motion to add item 8.d., budget. R. Blessey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

d. Budget Discussion: A. Dew asked if the same budget should be submitted as last year, and the Commission agreed that this amount should be appropriate. A. Dew noted other projects to be completed.

ADJOURNMENT: M. Dew made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.