



**Brookfield
Conservation
Commission**

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BROOKFIELD, CT

DEC 10 2015

Michelle DeBella Asst.
JOAN M. LOCKE, TOWN CLERK

3:50 PM



DRAFT MINUTES

Brookfield Conservation Commission
Brookfield Town Hall Room 129
Wednesday, December 2, 2015
7:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following in attendance:
Present: Chair A. Dew; Vice Chair J. Bronn; Commissioner M. Carmody; Commissioner M. Dew
Absent: Commissioner Ryan Blessey; Commissioner Mike Murphy; Secretary/Treasurer S. Landis; Commissioner J. Blick
Also Present: E. Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 11/04/15 – Chair Dew made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/04/15 meeting. J. Bronn seconded the motion, and it carried, with A. Dew, M. Dew, and J. Bronn voting.**
3. **GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** There was no correspondence at this meeting.
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** No report.
6. **CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**
 - a. The Nature Center – S. Landis – No report.
 - b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn – DBI's invoice has been received. Other than the payment, there is no additional report.
 - c. Burr Farm – M. Carmody – M. Carmody reported that she has received many positive comments about the fence. There are also many dog walkers. M. Dew stated that he will add some fencing at the site.
 - d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew – M. Dew reported that there are a couple of down trees, but nothing of significance in the main trails. Chair Dew stated that she is planning to add a fence post to the site, to limit access to the Community Garden.
 - e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – No report.
 - f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey, A. Dew – There was a meeting at the Gurski Homestead with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, and the plan was that SHPO would return its comments to the Conservation Commission. The Commission has not yet heard anything back from CT SHPO. M. Dew stated that the Gurski Homestead is back in the focus of the CT SHPO. Chair Dew stated that the Commission is waiting for CT SHPO's list of priorities, and when the list is received, the Commission will have to discuss the matter with the First Selectman. M. Dew stated that George Waltz had contacted him two weeks ago, asking to

volunteer to help with the Gurski Homestead site. M. Dew stated that he had intended to invite G. Waltz to this evening's Commission meeting. M. Dew stated that First Selectman Steve Dunn (sworn into office on December 7, 2015) had also been on site last week. Prior management of the Gurski Homestead was briefly discussed. Chair Dew indicated that the lease for the house at the Gurski Homestead has to be renewed. Chair Dew asked that someone contact Mark Johnson regarding work for winterization of the house on site. Chair Dew also pointed out that the electrical work should be moved upstairs, which is an easy move. Chair Dew will first coordinate the matter with Mark Johnson to determine what needs to be done at the house. *The Commission moved back to discussion of the Old Bridge Sanctuary.*

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space – M. Carmody, M. Dew – M. Carmody agreed that the site looks good, except there was some garbage along the road. Storage of material on site was also discussed, relative to the Garden on the site. M. Dew stated that he needs to speak with John Tomascak about the lease, and the wiring for the pump also needs to be complete. Chair Dew stated that the group who manages the garden should also be aware of the fact that they should obtain permission from the Commission before moving forward with certain plans on site. Chair Dew stated that the Eriksen Farm Open Space house will be up for renewal in March. The rent may be raised only slightly each year. The Commission agreed that the rent should be raised \$25 per month, and Chair Dew noted that she will make the contact necessary to raise the rent.

The Commission moved back to discussion of the Gurski Homestead.

- h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn – No report.
- i. Deer Management – M. Dew – No report.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and volunteers – This item is continued to the next meeting.
- b. Trail Guide/Map: Draft & Publication of Document – J. Bronn stated that approximately three years ago, he had met with the person who had done the Southbury Trail Guide. J. Bronn has also contacted the Southbury Parks and Recreation Department at that time.

Chair Dew mentioned that the budget proposal submission will be due relatively shortly. J. Bronn mentioned that he is curious to know the results of the Library Board's decision.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. 2016 Meeting Schedule – **M. Dew made a motion to accept the 2016 meeting schedule as is. Chair Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
- b. Nomination & Election of Officers for 2016 Calendar Year – **Chair Dew made a motion to elect Jeffrey Bronn as the Chair of the Conservation Commission.** There was no second to the motion. J. Bronn stated that he feels as though A. Dew is better suited for the position at this point. A. Dew noted the importance of having a representative work in Town for the Conservation Commission. **J. Bronn made a motion [that the Commission] discuss with the First Selectman changes to the appropriate Town documentation (i.e., Town Charter or Town Ordinance) to have a Conservation Commission Director which would work in conjunction with the Conservation Commission. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.** M. Dew noted that this would also affect the Commission's future

budget submission proposal. J. Bronn suggested that Steve Dunn be invited to the Conservation Commission's January 6th meeting. Chair Dew noted that the Conservation Commission will discuss nomination and election of officers at the next meeting.

c. CACIWC 2015 Conference Overview – J. Bronn briefly reviewed his attendance at the conference. Chair Dew noted that the Conservation Commission has the charge to oversee the preservation of wildlife. Chair Dew stated that from a Conservation standpoint, she is aware that there may be more need to oversee the wildlife. J. Bronn mentioned that the Commission spends much time overseeing and maintaining the houses on conserved lands throughout the Town.

Chair Dew added the item, 777 Federal Road, The Renaissance, to the agenda, as the Conservation Commission has been asked by the Inland Wetlands Commission to review the plans. J. Bronn seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

763 & 777 Federal Road: The Renaissance – Chair Dew stated that the public hearing will open in Zoning on December 10th, and on December 14th for the Inland Wetlands Commission. The Inland Wetlands Commission has hired a third-party engineer to review the plans. Chair Dew noted that the proposed project is in a flood plain. Chair Dew stated that the Commission is welcome to review the plans in the Land Use Office, and to listen to the meeting recordings available on the Town's website. The current owner of the property is Branhaven. Chair Dew stated that the Inland Wetlands Commission's third party engineering reviewer will be presenting his findings of the environmental impact of the site. Chair Dew asked the Commission to be aware of the project, and noted that the plans and other information may be viewed at the office or online.

9. ADJOURNMENT: M. Carmody made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM. M. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

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

****Next regular meeting scheduled for January 6, 2016****