



**Brooklyn Conservation
Commission**

P. O. Box 356
Brooklyn, CT 06234

January 31, 2008

Leona Mainville
Town Clerk
P.O. Box 356
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Re: Brooklyn Conservation Commission 2007 Annual Report

Dear Leona,

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2007.

Activities\Projects\Grants

In the fall of 2006, a USDA WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program) grant was awarded to the Town of Brooklyn through the efforts of the Brooklyn Conservation Commission. The grant totaling more than \$40,000 provides 75% funding through to remove nursery plantings, treat invasive species, seed and maintain grassland habitat over a ten year period.

The Creamery Brook Trail was funded (\$10,000) through a State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Greenways grant. The Brooklyn Public Works Department completed most of the work in 2007. An official dedication and opening is planned for Earth Day, April 22, 2008.

Town of Brooklyn property markers and conservation restriction area signs were designed and created in the spring of 2007. These will be placed on trees and posts along designated town open space property and along conservation easements. Placement of the signs began in the fall of 2007.

New officers were elected in March of 2007. Mark Goetz and Jeannine Noel were elected Co-Chairs of the commission while Holly Drinkuth was elected Treasurer.

A laptop was purchased by the conservation commission in 2007. The commission will be utilizing the laptop for developing maps for the natural resource inventory, managing and filing minutes, site reviews and uploading information to the town website.

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission was a co-applicant in a Department of Agriculture grant to take part in a study by the University of Connecticut: "Public Preferences and Willingness to Pay for Farmland Preservation in Four Connecticut Communities: Case Studies of Brooklyn, Pomfret, Thompson and Woodstock". An important finding of the study was "Results show that residents within the four communities support the preservation of farmland and open space, as reflected by an often significant household willingness to pay for farmland preservation."

Meetings to update the Town of Brooklyn Plan of Conservation and Development began in the fall of 2007. David Fuss, Holly Drinkuth and Mark Goetz will be participating in the development of and provide comment and coordination from the BCC to this important land use policy document.

Development Reviews

As a non-regulatory land use commission, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission conducts development site plan reviews and forwards recommendations to the other regulatory land use commissions, Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning. These recommendations are based on the comparison of our natural resource inventory mapping to the conditions displayed on the site plans. For subdivisions of three or more new properties, Subdivision Regulations stipulate Open Space donations (quit claim or conservation easement) either to the Town of Brooklyn or other not-for-profit land preservation trust or a fee in-lieu of the property donation

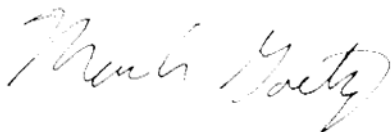
During the year of 2007, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed 5 subdivision site plans and 1 non-subdivision site plan. Of the 5 subdivision site reviews, 4 were recommended to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Open Space donation and the other was recommended to accept fee in-lieu.

Training

During 2007, several local conservation and land use educational training events were attended by Brooklyn Conservation Commission members. These are essential in developing the skills necessary to protecting open space and the environment for future Brooklyn residents. Below is a list of training events/workshops, dates and attendance as members of the Brooklyn Conservation Commission.

Training/Workshop Name	Date	BCC Member Attended
Natural Resources Conservation Conference	March 7, 2007	Jeannine Noel
Brooklyn Conversation	March 1, 2007	Holly Drinkuth
CT Land Conservation Council Conference	March 1, 2007	Holly Drinkuth
Land Use Leadership Alliance	Spring 2007	David Fuss and Mark Goetz
Advanced Approaches to Land Protection	Fall 2007	Joyce Meader, Jeannine Noel and Holly Drinkuth
CT Land Use Academy	Fall 2007	Jeannine Noel

Sincerely,



Mark Goetz
Brooklyn Conservation Commission Co-Chair