

2009 BCC Annual Report

Monday, February 01, 2010

February 1, 2010

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

Re: Brooklyn Conservation Commission 2009 Annual Report

Dear Leona,

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2009.

Activities\Projects\Grants

The Commission received the 2009 Green Valley Institute Good Neighbor Award for the valuable steps taken to protect Brooklyn's rural character and natural resources. This includes establishing an Open Space Land Acquisition Fund, developing a Greenway Plan for protection of natural resources and recreational opportunities, advising regulatory land use commissions to achieve a sustainable balance of growth and conservation in the Town of Brooklyn and for helping to keep the Last Green Valley green.

The Commission added several conservation links to the Town's website. In addition, many pictures of the trails in Brooklyn have been added to the Town's photo gallery on the website. The Conservation Commission will continue to add pictures of trails, events and scenic views showing the rural character of the Town.

The Trail Sign subcommittee of the Conservation Commission installed Rules of the Trail signs on all the trails in Brooklyn. The Quinebaug River Canoe Trail sign was installed on Day Street.

Conservation Commission members applied "No Dumping, Drains to River" stickers on storm drains in Town. The Commission purchased additional stickers and will continue with this project in the spring of 2010 placing "No Dumping" stickers on all storm drains in the town of Brooklyn.

Officers were re-elected in April of 2009. Jeannine Noel was re-elected as Chair of the commission. Holly Drinkuth was re-elected as Treasurer, and Ailla Wasstrom-Welz was elected as Secretary.

Brooklyn Conservation Commission members attended the Windham County Conservation Consortium meetings. The Consortium was created to link the conservation commissions in Windham County in order to share information and experiences.

The Conservation Commission hosted three events in 2009. An Earth Day walk was held at the Davis Forest Trail. Commission members led a walk, picked up trash and gave out a written history of the Dyer Dam on the Quinebaug River. A Mother's Day walk was held at Riverside Park in conjunction with the Last Green Valley Source to Sea paddle event. Walkers were informed of wildlife habitat improvements, recreational opportunities and storm water management projects. The car top carrier boat launch at Riverside Park was utilized by paddlers. A Walktober "C" is for Critters event was held at the Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail. Attendees participated in a scavenger hunt and learned about wildlife habitats. Brooklyn Trail Guides and other conservation information were distributed at each event. The Conservation Commission mailed invitations to Brooklyn landowners for the Protecting Family Farms and Forests Workshop at QVCC sponsored in conjunction with the Killingly and Canterbury Conservation Commissions. Over seventy people attended this event.

Commission members reviewed deeds in the town hall and updated the list of conservation easements held by the Town. The Commission submitted recommendations to Jim Larkin concerning the Conservation Subdivision Regulations.

The Green Team was merged with the Alternative Energy Subcommittee. This committee shall identify and help implement environmentally friendly (greener) practices for residents and Town agencies.

The Commission worked on and continues to work on our portion of the Plan of Conservation and Development which includes goals that have been met, future goals, and statistics and descriptions of natural resources and open space in Brooklyn.

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 review of our natural resource inventory mapping and the potential for impacts from site plan proposals. For subdivisions of three or more parcels, 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 2009, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed eight site plans. Two 3 lot re-subdivisions were recommended to the Planning and Zoning Commission to accept fee in-lieu of open space. The Commission also made recommendations on the Walmart proposal, 2 lot subdivision plans and a request to convert existing wetlands to a pond.

Training

During 2009, 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
Plant Workshop by Wayne Paquette	8/3/2009	Jeannine Noel, Joan Young, Dana Heilemann, Diane Wimmer
Protecting Family Lands Program	9/30/2009	Holly Drinkuth (speaker), Jeannine Noel, Ailla Wasstrom-Welz
Natural Resource Inventories and Co-occurring Resource Analysis by Holly Drinkuth	10/5/2009	Jeannine Noel, Diane Wimmer, Dana Heilemann
Municipal Aquifer Protection Agency Training	10/19/2009	Ailla Wasstrom-Welz

Sincerely,

Jeannine Noel
Brooklyn Conservation Commission Chair
cc: Melissa Dexter