

2012 BCC Annual Report

Tuesday, February 05, 2013

February 4, 2013

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

Re: Brooklyn Conservation Commission 2012 Annual Report

Dear Leona,

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2012.

Activities\Projects\Grants

The Commission purchased and installed ArcGIS 10 software on the BCC laptop. ArcGIS is software for making maps and analyzing geographic data.

The Commission, in conjunction with Parks & Recreation, hosted an Earth Day Clean-up Event in late April 2012. The Kick-Off was held at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds. Trash was picked up on several roads in Brooklyn as well as Riverside Park. The commission distributed Earth Day stickers to everyone who participated. The Commission requested and received a grant from The Last Green Valley for this event.

The District Conservationist, Ray Covino, spoke to the Commission concerning services offered by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Commission received a copy of "Green Valley Connections – A Guide to Linking Regional Greenways, Blueways and Wildlife Corridors". The guide is available online at GreenValleyInstitute.org.

At Family Fun Day, the Commission distributed pumpkin seeds in cow pots. Folks were invited to bring their grown pumpkins to the Parks & Recreation Spooky Nights Event planned for October.

The Commission participated in the Spooky Nights Event. In support of the

event, the Commission contributed funds for the purchase of tea lights, provided carved pumpkins and volunteered at the event. The Commission looks forward to being involved in future events with Parks and Recreation.

Officers were re-elected in April of 2012. Jeannine Noel and Diane Wimmer were re-elected as Co-Chairs. The treasurer position was vacated and the duties were transferred to the Co-Chairs. Ailla Wasstrom-Welz was re-elected as Secretary.

The Commission held several meetings concerning timber harvest on the Davis Property and planning for the harvest continues.

The Commission received a grant to establish a disc golf course at the Davis Forest. An application and site plan were submitted to Planning and Zoning. The Commission conducted a site walk and members of the public attended. The initial application was withdrawn and will be re-submitted in 2013 by Parks and Recreation.

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 Commission continues to work on the trails in Brooklyn in conjunction with other town agencies.

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 2012, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed one site plan and made recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Training

During 2012, 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	BCC Member Attended
Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources – March 12, 2012	Jeannine Noel Bev Thornton
Conservation & Development Policies Plan Update for 2013-18 Map Workshop – June 18, 2012	Diane Wimmer Bev Thornton
CT Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium – October 25, 2012	Bev Thornton
CACIWC Conference – November 17, 2012	Bev Thornton
Poquetanuck Cove Conservation Action Planning Workshops	Bev Thornton
Backyard Conservation and Rules Preservation – December 13, 2012	Bev Thornton

Sincerely,

Jeannine Noel
Brooklyn Conservation Commission Co-Chair
cc: Melissa Bradley