

**Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Special Meeting
Monday August 7, 2023
Brooklyn Community Center
31 Tiffany Street, Brooklyn, CT
and Virtual Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

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MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Acting Chair, Diane Wimmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Diane Wimmer; William Green; Carolyn Teed-Ives.

Dana Heilemann and Victoria Fradette were present via Zoom.

Richard Calarco was absent with notice.

Also Present: Austin Tanner (arrived at 7:13 p.m.); J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary.

2. Approval Minutes of June 5, 2023

Motion was made by C. Teed-Ives to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of June 5, 2023, as presented.

Second by D. Heilemann. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

3. Budgets

- 2022-2023

Ms. Wimmer explained that the new sign for the Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail came in and was paid for with money from the 2022-2023 budget.

- 2023-2024

Ms. Wimmer explained that the post for the new Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail sign will be paid for out of the 2023-2024 budget. Mr. Calarco will take care of this when he comes back from vacation.

4. New Business

- Approval of Revised 2023 Calendar

Ms. Wimmer explained that the only thing that needs to be changed is the meeting location due to renovations being done at the Clifford B. Green Memorial Building. Meetings affected: September (the Tuesday after Labor Day); and first Mondays of October, November and December.

Motion was made by V. Fradette to change the location of the remainder of the 2023 scheduled meetings: September (the Tuesday after Labor Day); and the first Mondays of October, November and December.

Second by W. Green.

Discussion:

Mr. Green asked when the renovation work at the Green Building will be completed. Ms. Wimmer explained that it is not yet known.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

- Brooklyn Fair

Ms. Wimmer explained that she had received an email from Sandy Brodeur of the Agriculture Commission asking if the any Member of the Conservation Commission would like to, or would be able to, provide something to display at the Brooklyn Fair (August 24-27). There was discussion about displays that the BCC has provided in past years (photos and maps of the trails and the aquifer protection study that had been done). She suggested possibly something about pollinators.

If any Member is able to do something, they are to let Mr. Calarco know. If money is spent, they are to let Mr. Calarco or Ms. Wimmer know so they can use the Tax ID # and also to get reimbursed.

If the BCC doesn't do anything for the Fair this year, they can think about something for next year.

a) Subdivision Update

Application 23-001

Ms. Wimmer explained that Jana Roberson had informed Mr. Calarco in an email (which he forwarded to BCC Members) that the PZC will be receiving an application for a subdivision on Day Street. The Application has already been before the IWWC and has been approved by them. Although premature for the BCC (no application number), Ms. Wimmer suggested discussing some of the background and holding off on a decision until September. D. Heilemann recalled other phases previously being discussed by the

BCC. This subdivision would be Phase 4. Ms. Wimmer explained that they had done fee-in-lieu of open space for the previous three phases, but the BCC had wanted the land protected because it is across the street from the Quinebaug River. Ms. Wimmer explained that Jeannine and Dana had gone out there and were concerned because they were cutting down/clearing more trees than expected.

Austin Tanner arrived at this time (7:13 p.m.).

Discussion continued. Ms. Wimmer explained that due to some technical difficulties with the equipment, she was unable to display the information received from Ms. Roberson. Ms. Teed-Ives had printed hard copies and Ms. Wimmer held up a map to the camera for those Members attending online to see while she explained the different phases. She said that the BCC will be asked if they would prefer fee-in-lieu of open space or the land. Since there are more phases to follow this one, it was suggested that, although nothing could be done about what has been cleared in the previous phases, perhaps some trees could be prevented from being cut down going forward. Ms. Wimmer stated that she knows that there are nesting eagles in that area and she said that the wildlife in the neighborhood would be affected by how much is cut down. More information is needed from Ms. Roberson and there was agreement among BCC Members to wait to have questions answered. Ms. Wimmer will email Mr. Calarco letting him know that the BCC Members feel that Ms. Roberson should be invited to attend next month with needed information/maps to display for discussion and to answer questions.

There was discussion regarding map/lot number for this property (possibly Map 43/Lot 6). Ms. Wimmer explained, for Ms. Fradette, how they have done reviews in the past using a sheet giving good overview of what the property looks like.

5. Old Business

a) Trail Maintenance and Sign Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail

Ms. Wimmer stated that the sign has come in, but she has not heard anymore about Trail maintenance from Mr. Calarco. She thinks it is going well. She stated that, with all the rain we've been getting, the Trails should be looked at withing about a month to see what needs to be done in the fall. She explained that the priority should be Prince Hill behind the pond and then the Carol Randall so that the students can use it.

b) Scout Project

Ms. Wimmer explained that Mr. Calarco had spoken with Luke Landis who plans to begin his Eagle Project (re-doing the trails by the dump) in September. Ms. Wimmer commented that the BCC had put aside some land (from a subdivision) near there and it had been suggested that Luke speak with Jana Roberson about the possibility

of connecting the Blackwell Trail to that land. It would be great to be able to get people to the brook to fish.

6. Trails

a) Trail Tour Schedule – No discussion.

7. Correspondence

Sandy Brodeur's email to D. Wimmer regarding the Brooklyn Fair (see second bullet point item under Agenda Item 4. New Business).

8. Public Comment

Austin Tanner explained that he had been contacted by Attorney Adams, representing the Little Dipper Farm, regarding an interest in selling part of the property to the Windham Land Trust and that there may be an opportunity for the Town of Brooklyn to work with the Windham Land Trust using the Open Space Fund. There is currently no proposal. The BCC Members were all interested and would like to be involved. Ms. Wimmer suggested development rights like had been done at Barrett Hill. There was discussion. Ms. Wimmer questioned how it would be maintained or just let nature take its course. Mr. Green commented that the Windham Land Trust usually likes to allow public access. Ms. Wimmer will inform Mr. Calarco.

9. Adjournment (Next Meeting, **Tuesday**, September 5, 2023 – The day after Labor Day).

Motion was made by V. Fradette to adjourn at 7:34 p.m.

Second by D. Heilemann. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault

Recording Secretary