

2014-04-07 Conservation Minutes

Wednesday, April 09, 2014

Brooklyn Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Brooklyn Town Hall

April 7, 2014

Present: Diane Wimmer, Chair; Jeannine Noel, Secretary; Michael Oatley; Bev Thornton; Harry Adams; and Dana Heilemann

The meeting was called to order by D. Wimmer at 7: 31 pm.

A Motion to approve the March 3, 2014 meeting minutes was made by B. Thornton. Seconded by H. Adams. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

No subdivision reviews.

A Motion to move Public Comment from Item No. 8 to Item No. 4. was made by J. Noel. Seconded by D. Heilemann. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

MaryBeth Leonard discussed the problem of garbage in town. The town's gateways are littered with garbage, which sends the signal that residents do not take pride in their community. She noted several areas that are particularly problematic, including the intersection of Day Street and Route 6; Windham Road from Route 6 to Canterbury Road; South Street, and Quebec Square, among others. The Last Green Valley makes cleanup funds available to municipalities that sponsor clean up events. Ms. Leonard is President of the Brooklyn Historical Society, a member of the Garden Club, and a member of the Brooklyn Economic Development Commission. Perhaps several organizations could join forces to orchestrate a cleanup event.

D. Wimmer noted that in light of other planned activities, the Conservation Commission does not have the resources to put on another event. She suggested that the commission could expand the scope of the Earth Day Planting Party currently scheduled for May 3 to include a cleanup. She will contact First Selectman Rick Ives and Recreation Director Bucky Lobusch to see if they can provide vehicles and trash bags. M. Oatley will prepare the application to The Last Green Valley for cleanup funds. J. Noel will apprise the Agriculture Commission of the BCC's plans. She will also prepare the event flyer, post event information on the BCC's Facebook page, and

arrange for event information to be published in the Villager and Reminder.

Donna Bronwell introduced herself. She is the Chair of the Killingly Conservation Commission. She discussed the commission's third annual schedule of summer walks, to take place in Killingly Parks and on protected conservation lands. J. Noel noted that information about this event could be posted on the BCC's Facebook page.

A brief discussion of letterboxing ensued. D. Wimmer will gather more information on Killingly letterbox locations.

The commission discussed the 2014-2015 budget. D. Wimmer stated that the funds for the commission's recording secretary are coming from the town budget. At the budget workshop, the Parks and Recreation Department discussed the concept of a teen center. The BCC might be called upon in the future to assist with this project by offering some programs, such as a garden. The town budget is slated to be put to a vote in mid-May.

M. Oatley inquired as to the status of the handheld GPS. The commission voted to make this purchase at its last meeting. B. Thornton noted that a device with a camera may be preferable. The commission has until June 30 to make the purchase.

The commission discussed Family Fun Day. D. Wimmer ordered one quarter of a pound of sugar pumpkin seeds from Hart. She will order cow pots and soil. She will provide a table and Bucky will provide a canopy. The plan is to do a display of recycled pumpkins.

The commission discussed the Spooky Nights event. D. Wimmer noted that there will be two displays this year. M. Oatley inquired as to who will build the towers. D. Wimmer said it is her understanding that the Recreation Department will take care of it. M. Oatley suggested that the commission collect rocks to hold everything in place. D. Wimmer noted that the commission will need two computers this year.

The commission discussed the Connecticut Trails Day event to be held on June 7 in Riverside Park at 10 am. J. Noel will follow up with the event organizers because the commission still has not received an information packet.

The commission discussed the status of the timber harvest. M. Oatley said they are making progress.

The commissions discussed the disc golf project. M. Oatley noted that the project is on hold pending the completion of the timber harvest.

No correspondence.

A Motion to Adjourn was made by J. Noel. Seconded by D. Heilemann. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins
Recording Secretary