Brooklyn Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Brooklyn Town Hall

August 4, 2014

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

Guest: Aaron Kerouack

The meeting was called to order by D. Wimmer at 7:30 pm.

A Motion to approve the July 7, 2014 meeting minutes was made by J. Noel. Seconded by H. Adams. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

New Business, Subdivision Reviews: None.

Financial Matters, Budget: D. Wimmer stated that she and M. Oatley met with First Selectman Rick Ives to discuss the timber harvest contract. The parking lot is not in the contract as it should have been. Consequently the Town will have to figure out a way to fund it.

Spooky Nights: The commission discussed how much should be allocated for the purchase of paint and duct tape.

A Motion to spend up to $125 on supplies for Spooky Nights was made by J. Noel. Seconded by M. Oatley. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

D. Wimmer will check with the Recreation Department to confirm that the stands are being made. The commission agreed that it does not make sense to hold a special event prior to Spooky Nights. Instead the commission will reach out to various community groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. D. Wimmer will leave directions with Bucky Lohbusch at the Recreation Department. D. Wimmer can have kids carve pumpkins after school. D. Heilemann inquired about the Science Academy. M. Oatley noted that the commission’s contact there, Steve Phillips, is leaving. D. Heilemann will contact Mrs. Hanson of the Art Club.

Long Range Goal Review: D. Wimmer distributed a draft of a memo to First Selectman Rick Ives outlining the commission’s long range goals. The commission agreed to the following changes in the draft:

Riverside Park, Item 3: Delete the words “when the meadow is rototilled.”

Davis Park: Eliminate Item 2. Change Item 3 to read “Portions of Red and Green Trails need to be resurfaced.” Change Item 4 to read “All trails need to be cleared.” Eliminate Item 6. Renumber remaining items.

M Oatley stated that he cannot mark the Green Trail without knowing where the boundaries are. D. Wimmer stated that the creation of the new signs at Carroll Randall Trail could be structured as an afterschool activity. She requested that B. Thornton assist with plant identification. The sign posts are intact; only the signs themselves need to be redone and laminated. D. Wimmer noted that First Selectman Rick Ives has some ideas for Blackwell Brook. The commission agreed that they would prefer to focus on completing outstanding projects before embarking upon any new ones.

Timber Harvest update: D. Wimmer stated that the timber harvest is almost done. Approximately $20,000 is going into the Open Space fund. Some logs will be left to use in outlining the parking lot.

Disc Golf: D. Wimmer stated that the Town has committed to helping with this project. M Oatley has e-mailed First Selectman R. Ives to determine when the work will begin.

Other: None

Correspondence: J. Noel has received an e-mail from the Town requesting that the commission provide a mission statement for use on the new Town website. The mission statement is due on Wednesday of this week. J. Noel took a look at what commissions in other towns have done. D. Wimmer suggested the ordinance that created the commission may contain suitable language. J. Noel will draft a mission statement and circulate it to the commission members for their feedback tomorrow.

D. Wimmer discussed a recent article in the Norwich Bulletin regarding a new DEEP grant program. $150,000 is being made available to municipalities for aquatic invasive species control. This is a matching program, with grants ranging from $2,500 to $50,000. D. Wimmer stated that such a grant might prove useful in controlling Purple Loosestrife on the islands in Riverside Park. The Town has a grant writer and D. Wimmer will bring this program to the attention of the First Selectman.

Public Comment: Aaron Kerouack noted that the trooper station by the tennis courts has been taken down. He inquired whether that space could be used for parking for the trails. D. Wimmer noted that most people access the trails from the other end. With regard to benches for Riverside Park and Creamery Brook, Mr. Kerouack noted that at Talcott Mountain State Park, they use trees as benches. Mr. Kerouack stated that he has applied to the Town for an alternate position on the commission.

The commission agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 2 due to Labor Day.

A Motion to Adjourn was made by M. Oatley. Seconded by B. Thornton. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins

Recording Secretary