

2014-07-07 Conservation Commission Minutes

Brooklyn Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Brooklyn Town Hall

July 7, 2014

Present: Diane Wimmer, Chair; Michael Oatley; Bev Thornton; Jeannine Noel; and Harry Adams. Dana Heilemann joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was called to order by D. Wimmer at 7:33 pm.

A Motion to approve the June 2, 2014 meeting minutes was made by M. Oatley. Seconded by B. Thornton. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

New Business, Subdivision Reviews: None.

New Business, Long Range Goals: First Selectman Rick Ives has asked the commission to compile a wish list.

D. Heilemann joined the meeting at 7:36 pm.

The commission discussed Riverside Park. D. Heilemann suggested signs that illustrate the various plants. D. Wimmer noted that additional meadow mix and seeding are needed. J. Noel stated that the addition of benches would be a good idea. M. Oatley requested a recycling bin. D. Heilemann noted that Killingly uses 3-bin models that accommodate trash, recyclables, and glass. D. Wimmer remarked that it may be possible to solicit donations for the benches. She will check with First Selectman R. Ives about this. B. Thornton stated that donors' names or the names of those commemorated through donations can be put on brass plaques attached to the benches. D. Heilemann inquired about Eagle Scout projects. M. Oatley replied that the troop does not have any Eagle Scouts at this time; however, younger Scouts may be available for trail clearing and maintenance. D. Wimmer stated that, with regard to signs, about 20 are needed.

The commission discussed Davis Forest. D. Wimmer stated that the commission ordered three 2' x 3' signs using last year's budget. They can either be incorporated into the planned kiosk or mounted on posts. M. Oatley noted that there are already monies in the disc golf budget for the kiosk. M. Oatley stated that the inner trails require clearing, while the outer trails are in need of resurfacing. In addition, the

trails need to be remarked. D. Wimmer noted that the contract did not include a parking lot. Additional funds must be secured to level off and resurface the parking lot area. The bridge was in the contract, but according to M. Oatley it has yet to be built. D. Wimmer stated that First Selectman R. Ives would like to meet with commission members to discuss the status of the project. D. Wimmer suggested that M. Oatley attend this meeting as he is the point person for the disc golf project. It was unclear whether the work on the trails is included in the contract. First Selectman R. Ives will be able to clarify this.

The commission discussed Creamery Brook Trail. J. Noel stated that the trail needs to be resurfaced. A new bench is needed or the existing one should be sanded and refinished.

The commission discussed Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail. It needs to be bushwhacked. J. Noel inquired whether the plaques should be redone. D. Wimmer replied that the school provided the plaques. They are in good shape, although the plexiglass needs to be redone. She will check with the school regarding the current science curriculum.

The commission discussed Blackwell Brook Trail. D. Wimmer stated that the brook took over the trail; there was nothing that could be done.

In terms of long range goals, the commission agreed that Davis Forest and Riverside Park should be the highest priorities.

D. Wimmer noted that the highway department did a good job of cutting. Fields should be cut every third year to prevent meadows from turning into forested areas. She reported that everything that was planted this year has taken.

The commission returned to the discussion of the Riverside Park wish list. Everyone agreed that a different gate is needed, one that is big enough for a wheelchair or stroller, but which prevents ATVs from entering the park. Highway trucks must still be able to access the park.

D. Wimmer will write up the wish list and submit it to the commission members for their review prior to submission to First Selectman R. Ives. She noted that some items, such as the 20 signs, gate, and resurfacing, may have to go into the capital budget since these expenditures will exceed \$5,000.

Budget 2014 and 2015: D. Wimmer stated that in ordering the three signs for Davis Forest, the commission has used up all but \$100 of its 2014 budget. D. Wimmer requested that M. Oatley work directly with Gagnon Sign on the signs. M. Oatley stated that the design work is complete unless the commission wants to make additional changes. D. Wimmer noted that this year's budget includes \$900 for supplies. The next supplies expenditure is likely to be pumpkins for Spooky Nights.

M. Oatley announced that the Town did receive the Earth Day grant and reimbursed the commission for those receipts that were submitted.

June Trail Days: D. Wimmer and D. Heilemann that only one person attended the event. D. Heilemann noted that this is a busy time of year for many. The commission agreed that it does not make sense to participate in this event next year. J. Noel noted that there was very little turn out for the Earth Day Cleanup event. The commission agreed that it would not be the best use of the commission's extremely limited resources to do this event again unless it is restructured as a cooperative effort involving other commissions and organizations.

D. Heilemann suggested that the commission provide the Agriculture Commission with copies of the Brooklyn Trail Guide for their use in the Walktober event.

Spooky Nights: D. Wimmer stated that the commission should operate under the assumption that last year's jugs are gone. The commission can give the instructions for making pumpkins to the Scouts and Recreation Department. D. Wimmer can do an afterschool session. Last year's tower was comprised of approximately 30 real pumpkins and 90 recycled ones for a total of 120. Because there will be two towers this year, the commission will need twice that amount. D. Wimmer noted that the Recreation Department will build the towers. M. Oatley noted that the commission has two projectors; only one computer will be needed. The commission discussed the possibility of doing something at the Brooklyn Fair. The problem with this is that the kids' crafts are structured as make-it-and-take-it activities. The commission discussed whether to hold a separate event on Columbus Day weekend for making pumpkins. The commission agreed to table discussion of this matter until the August meeting.

Timber Harvest update: As discussed earlier, the trails still need to be cleared and resurfaced. The parking lot and bridge have yet to be constructed.

Disc Golf: D. Wimmer stated that this project is being held up by the delay in completing the Timber Harvest. M. Oatley noted that Stable Grid will be used on the trails.

Other: D. Wimmer reported that the dedication of Riverside Park was well done and well attended.

Correspondence: D. Wimmer announced that the commission has received a thank you letter from the Recreation Department for its work on Family Fun Day.

Public Comment: None.

A Motion to Adjourn was made by J. Noel. Seconded by M. Oatley. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins

Recording Secretary