

2008 BCC Annual Report

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

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

Re: Brooklyn Conservation Commission 2008 Annual Report

Dear Leona,

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2008.

Activities\Projects\Grants

The Trail Sign subcommittee of the Conservation Commission installed a trail sign at the beginning of the Creamery Brook Trail on Route 169. An Earth Day celebration was held in April 2008 at the Creamery Brook Trail. The celebration entailed a ribbon cutting ceremony, a walk/bike ride on the Creamery Brook Trail and refreshments at Creamery Brook Village. The celebration was attended by many Brooklyn families and residents of the Creamery Brook Village. Photographs from the event are being placed on the town's website.

The Conservation Commission created a trail guide for trails located in Brooklyn. The trail guide and individual trail maps are available on the town's website. The following trails are included in the trail guide: Quinebaug River Trail - Northeast Utilities, Riverside Park - Canoe Launch Site, Williams/Ferguson Sanctuary - Wolf Den Land Trust, Davis Property, Milo Appley Conservation Showcase, Creamery Brook Trail, Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail, Donald Francis Recreation Park Trail, and the Blackwell Brook Trail.

Conservation Commission members applied "No Dumping, Drains to River" stickers on storm drains on Day Street. The Commission will continue with this project in the spring of 2009 placing "No Dumping" stickers on all storm drains in the town of Brooklyn.

Officers were re-elected in April of 2008. Mark Goetz and Jeannine Noel were re-elected as Co-Chairs of the commission. Holly Drinkuth was re-elected as Treasurer, and Joyce Meader was re-elected as Secretary.

A projector was purchased by the Conservation Commission in 2008. The Commission utilizes the projector in conjunction with a laptop to enable the commission to view aerial maps of the town's resources and make recommendations to Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning.

Brooklyn Conservation Commission members attended the Windham County Conservation Consortium. The Consortium was created to link the conservation commissions in Windham County in order to share information and experiences. The Consortium will have annual meetings in which members of the Brooklyn Conservation Commission will attend.

Brooklyn's Open Space and Land Acquisition Committee was dissolved and is now a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission.

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission continues to work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on a project to create grassland habitat for birds and other species at the northern side of Riverside Park along the Quinebaug River. The project includes a \$42,000 Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) grant from NRCS and involves the removal of invasive and incompatible plant species, grassland planting and rotational management over a ten year period.

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 the comparison of our natural resource inventory mapping to the conditions displayed on the site plans. For subdivisions of three or more new properties, 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 2008, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed 14 site plans. The majority of the site plans were for subdivisions of less than three lots. One site plan for a re-subdivision was recommended to the Planning and Zoning Commission to accept fee in-lieu of open space.

Training

During 2008, 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	Date	BCC Member Attended
Management of Conservation Restrictions presented by Ruth Cutler, GVI	April 17, 2008	Jeannine Noel, Mark Goetz, Holly Drinkuth, Joyce Meader, Joan Young
DEP Aquifer Protection Agency Training	May 2008 (2 days)	Mark Goetz
The Roles and Responsibilities of Local Land Use Commissioners	October 29, 2008	Diane Wimmer, Ailla Wasstrom-Welz

Sincerely,

Jeannine Noel
Brooklyn Conservation Commission Chair

Cc: Melissa Dexter