



**Brooklyn Conservation  
Commission**  
P. O. Box 356  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

February 25, 2016

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

Re: Brooklyn Conservation Commission 2015 Annual Report

Dear Leona,

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2015.

#### **Activities\Projects\Grants**

Charlotte Merrill joined the Commission in January as a regular member. In March, Diane Wimmer was re-elected as Chair. Jeannine Noel was elected as Vice Chair. Treasurer duties remain shared by the Chairs. The Commission continues to function within budget.

Marc Cohen of Atlantic States Rural Water and Waste Water Association conducted a Source Water Protection Workshop which was attended by Commission members. The Source Water Protection Program is a joint project with the USDA and the National Rural water Association. The purpose is to protect potential aquifers. The Town would incur no costs to participate in this program. A Sub-Committee was formed made up of members of the Conservation Commission and other town commissions. Several meetings were held. Source water threats were evaluated and a protection plan was formulated. The final plan and educational outreach component will be completed in early 2016.

The Riverside Park canoe launch was featured in the Quinebaug Paddle Guide which can be found on the Commission's page of the town's website. The Trail Guide map is also located on the website.

Commission members cleaned up Riverside Park, the corner of Greenway Drive and the Conservation Easement on Day Street in April. Several bags of trash were collected. The Commission continues to work on the trails in Brooklyn in conjunction with other town agencies. The Carroll Randall trail was cleared. The nature trail at Riverside Park was harrowed per the maintenance schedule and border trees were removed.

The Commission purchased a banner to use at events such as Family Fun Day and Clean Up events. At Family Fun Day, members of the Commission distributed 140 sunflower seeds in cowpots. The remaining seeds and other materials were given to the Teen Center and the Garden Club at the Brooklyn Middle School. The Commission also participated in the Spooky Nights Event in October. Michael Oatley and Harry Adams constructed two pumpkin towers using recycled jugs and real pumpkins some of which were created by the Teen Center, Garden Club and after school program. Commission members volunteered at the weekend event.

The Disc Golf Course at Davis Forest was completed. Eighteen tee boxes were installed as well as the baskets, the kiosk and a bench. The course is enjoyed by residents.

Brooklyn Conservation Commission members continue to attend the Windham County Conservation Consortium meetings. The Consortium was created to link the conservation commissions in Windham County in order to share information and experiences. The Consortium meets twice a year and continues to educate members on conservation issues.

### **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 review of our natural resource inventory mapping and the potential for impacts from site plan proposals. For subdivisions of three or more parcels, 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 2015, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed two subdivision plans and recommended Fee-in-Lieu and a Deed Restriction in Perpetuity, respectively. The Commission also recommended the appropriation of \$37,250.00 from the Brooklyn Land Acquisition Fund (Open Space Fund) for the acquisition of development rights to farmland in regards to the Barrett Hill Farm.

### **Training**

During 2015, local conservation and land use educational training events and webinars 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/webinars/podcasts, dates and attendance as members of the Brooklyn Conservation Commission.

<b>Training/Workshop Name</b>	<b>BCC Member Attended</b>
Natural Resources Conference at UCONN - March	Bev Thornton; Jeannine Noel
WCCC Meeting - New State Waste Management Program	Jeannine Noel, Bev Thornton
CACIWC Conference - November	Bev Thornton
QVCC - Conservation Topics	Charlotte Merrill

Sincerely,

/s/Jeannine Noel

Jeannine Noel

Brooklyn Conservation Commission

cc: Melissa Bradley