



**Brooklyn Conservation
Commission**

P. O. Box 356
Brooklyn, CT 06234

February 27, 2017

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

Re: Brooklyn Conservation Commission 2016 Annual Report

Dear Leona,

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2016.

Activities\Projects\Grants

In April, Diane Wimmer and Jeannine Noel were elected as Co-Chairs. Treasurer duties remain shared by the Chairs. Bev Thornton and Harry Adams resigned from the Commission. The Commission continues to function within budget.

The Commission maintains a Facebook page. It is updated regularly with events, photos, conservation topics and local information.

The Source Water Protection Sub-Committee held monthly meetings. Source water threats were evaluated and a protection plan was formulated. The Source Water Protection Plan, Drinking Water Resource Map and Protect Brooklyn Groundwater Brochure are now available on the Conservation Commission's page on the Town's website under "Links" and "Maps and Brochures". Marc Cohen of Atlantic States Rural Water and WasteWater Association gave a presentation at the Brooklyn School Open House in September. Approximately 150 brochures were handed out by Diane Wimmer at the open house.

At Family Fun Day, members of the Commission distributed seeds in cowpots. The remaining cowpots and other materials were donated to the Rec Center. The town held an Earth Day event in which Commission members participated.

The Disc Golf Course at Davis Forest continues to be enjoyed by residents. Tee signs and practice baskets were added to the course. Brooklyn has several trails for residents to explore: Quinebaug River Trail, Maury Bowen Complex, Williams/Ferguson Sanctuary, Milo Appley Conservation Showcase, Davis Forest, Creamery Brook Trail, Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail, and Donald Francis Recreation Park Trail. Trail maps can be found on the Conservation Commission's page on the Town's website under "Links" and "Brooklyn Trails".

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 2016, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed one subdivision plan and initially recommended Fee-in-Lieu. Upon receiving further information, the Commission amended its recommendation in January 2017 to an Open Space Set Aside.

Training

During 2016, 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.

Sincerely,

/s/Jeannine Noel

Jeannine Noel
Brooklyn Conservation Commission

cc: Melissa Bradley