

Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday August 1, 2022 - 7:00 pm

Present: Richard Calarco, Diane Wimmer, Victoria Fradette, Carolyn Teed-Ives, Jeannine Noel, Dana Heilemann, and Sara Deshaies, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Shannon Russo

1. Call to Order – Richard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. Minutes Of June Meeting – Jeannine made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Dana seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
3. Richard asked for a motion to move New Business - Trails up on agenda. Victoria made a motion to accept, Carolyn seconded. Motion passed 6-0. Shannon Russo, Brooklyn Middle School teacher, attended Goodwin Naturalist Course earlier this year. She uses the Carol Randall trail behind the school in teaching her students about science. She asked for permission to update and make improvements to the trails, signage, etc. She also would like to make improvements around the vernal pool area for wildlife as well as access for students, address some invasive flora, and look into what native species would be beneficial. She has installed a trail cam to see what wildlife is using the area. Richard stated he could send Shannon a study done at UCONN about native plantings. He also stated that the Commission would need to do some research to be sure there would be no wetland encroachment. Jeannine stated her proposal is thorough and well thought out. She asked if the current signage would be replaced. Shannon stated that she suspects that most would likely be updated. Discussion took place about funding and signage. Diane stated that there is funding remaining to assist with the cost. Grants may be available for the project as well. Once approved, Richard will work with Austin to apply for them. Discussion took place around the signage. The Commission asked Shannon to prepare a loose timeline for completion. Richard asked for a motion to approve the concept. Diane made a motion, Jeannine seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
4. Richard asked for a motion to look into grants for Carolyn's trails project. Diane made a motion to look into grants, Dana seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
5. Budget 2022-2023 – No changes from what was proposed.
6. New Business
 - a) subdivision reviews – Day Street – There is no actual application put forth, only potential mapping available. Also, IWWC hasn't approved yet. Carolyn made a motion to table the discussion until additional information is received, Dana seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
 - b) Brooklyn Fair – Diane said she hasn't heard anything yet.
7. Old Business
 - a) Other – Richard announced that UCONN will hold online workshop on invasive flora. There is money in the budget for whomever would like that recording.

- b) Also, he has been receiving information regarding trails. He will forward to the members. Connecticut trails has membership available. Richard will look into it for the Commission.
 - c) Diane mentioned last month that she attended a National Trail Days online event in June. She asked the Commission if they wanted to get involved in that next year. There are plenty of resources for funding and social media outreach. It is the first Saturday in June. There is educational value would be great. Ways to get involved were discussed. No decisions were made.
 - d) Diane mentioned that the Plan of Conservation will need to be shared with everyone every year regarding Riverside Park. Mowing is being done during a time when the migration and nesting of birds is taking place. There should be no mowing between April 15th and August 15th each year and only 1/3 at a time.
- 8. Correspondence – None
 - 9. Public **Comment** – Shannon mentioned that she attended an event about Monarch tagging. She said if there is a minimum of 10 milkweed plants at the park, the Commission can establish the area of the park to be a Monarch weigh station, coordinates can be uploaded to Monarch Watch website, allows the website to track Monarch migrations.
 - 10. Adjournment – Dana made a motion to adjourn at 7:50pm, Carolyn seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 6, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Deshaies