

Brooklyn Conservation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 3, 2022  
Clifford Green Building and Virtual Meeting 7:00 pm

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

Also Present: Shannon Russo

1. Call to Order – Richard called the meeting to order at 7:01pm
2. Minutes of September Meeting – Diane made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dana seconded. Motion passed 5-0-1. Victoria abstained as she has not yet been sworn in.
3. Budget 2022-2023 – Is as approved
4. New Business
  - a) subdivision reviews - None
5. Dana made a motion to put trails item before grants on tonight's agenda. Diane seconded. Motion passed 5-0-1. Victoria abstained as she has not yet been sworn in.
6. Old Business
  - a) Trails – Shannon Russo was present to provide an update on her work with the trails and signage. She purchased the trails signs with funds from the Brooklyn Board of Education. They have been received and are currently being stored at Brooklyn Middle School. The mounting holes were drilled incorrectly. Shannon will try to fix it herself or the company will take them back and fix them. October 4<sup>th</sup> the Trails Club starting again for this quarter for the next four Tuesdays after school. Club will focus on cleaning the trails up and doing basic wildlife surveys. Removal of invasive plants and replacing with native plants also. Diane asked Shannon if any of the fourth grade teachers had reached out. Diane provided her name at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Shannon stated o one has reached out yet. Shannon is still working on the website. It's about 1/3 finished. Once it is complete, Shannon will share the URL with Jeannine to link to the trails portion of the Conservation page on the Town website.
7. Continued New Business:
  - b) Grants –Richard and Diane met with Austin at an unrelated meeting. Austin wants the Commission to pick two grants to apply for. Richard thinks one of them should be the Connecticut Trails grant. American trails, open space are all appropriate as well. If either Parks & Recreation or Public Works helps with labor that counts. The state grant uses volunteers at a dollar rate per person. Diane stated that the American Trails program is the first Sunday in June. They also assist with public relations, templates for brochures, etc. Discussion took place on how to proceed. Diane made a motion that when grants for trail maintenance are available the Commission bring a few options to the First Selectman. Dana seconded. 5-0-1. Victoria abstained as she has not yet been sworn in.

8. Correspondence – Richard received correspondence that Victoria needs to be sworn in. No other correspondence.
9. Public Comment – Shannon asked about removal of old, dilapidated podiums on the trails and who would be responsible for that. Richard will find out. Discussion was had about mowing and maintenance. Discussion ongoing.
10. Adjournment – Dana made a motion to adjourn. Jeannine seconded. Motion passed 5-0-1. Victoria abstained as she has not yet been sworn in. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Next meeting Monday November 7, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Deshaies,  
Recording Secretary