

**Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 4th, 2024
7:00 pm via Zoom &
Clifford B. Green Memorial Center
Conference Room
Suite 24, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, CT**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85325141783?pwd=QkMZoPdF8bADjU7B4d5MnJ81bkLHT5.1>

Meeting ID: 853 2514 1783

Passcode: 333885

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MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Chair, Richard Calarco called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Richard Calarco; William Green; Diane Wimmer; Dana Heilemann; Carolyn Teed-Ives (in person).

Victoria Fradette was absent with notice.

Also Present: J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary.

There was one person present in the audience.

Present via Zoom: None.

2. Approval Minutes of February 5th, 2024.

Motion was made by Dana Heilemann to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of February 5, 2024, as presented.

Second by W. Green.

Discussion:

- C. Teed-Ives noted a correction to Item 7.a – Trail Days will be on Saturday, June 1st.

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Budgets

- 2023-2024 – No discussion.
- 2024-2025

Mr. Calarco explained that the budget process has started. The BCC can discuss next month what they want to do regarding sustainable (maybe a garden), signs, and Memorial Day (Ms. Wimmer suggested setting up a table and planting flower seeds as in the past).

5. New Business

- Open Space

Ms. Wimmer had provided a list of properties that had been acquired since 2013. Mr. Calarco will contact the Assessor for maps of the Town-owned properties (to review at the next meeting). The BCC will use this information to determine recommendations for open space and grants.

- Subdivisions

- 1) SD 23-003 Seven-lot subdivision on Wauregan Road/Rt. 205 (Map 23, Lot 38), Applicant: Tetreault Building Company.

Mr. Calarco explained that there is a PZC public hearing scheduled for this Application. There was discussion and Mr. Calarco explained that the Applicant had made the select change spoken of at the site walk. He said that the covenants were forwarded to Planning and Zoning.

- 2) SD 23-002: Fourteen-lot re-subdivision including 18.2 acres on Wauregan Road and Gorman Road (Map 32, Lot 15-1), Applicant: KA&G Investments, LLC.

Mr. Calarco explained that they already had the public hearing for this Application and that it had been approved with the fee-in-lieu of open space based on the recommendation of the BCC. He explained that there was zero access. There was discussion regarding how this was the right decision for that property.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of the new Town Planner working with the BCC (liaison) on grants and regarding the BCC's recommendations to the PZC. There was discussion regarding the BCC's recommendations, for protecting areas, that are in the POCD .

There was discussion regarding possibly increasing the amount of money put into the Open Space Fund each year from \$1 to \$5 per citizen. Mr. Calarco thinks that money may be able to be used as the twenty-percent match for grants. There was discussion regarding the mill rate. It was decided that more information is needed. C. Teed-Ives will contact other, similar towns (Woodstock, Eastford, Canterbury, Pomfret) for information on what they do for open space funding (amount per citizen). Ms. Wimmer would like to know the value per mill of the mill rate and also the median property tax.

Discussion to continue at the next meeting.

6. Old Business

- a. Scout Project

Mr. Calarco reported that it is half completed (Blackwell Brook) and the hope is that it will be completed by the end of spring. There was a question as to whether he would be doing signage.

There was discussion regarding recognition from the Town. Perhaps a certificate to be presented at a Selectmen's meeting. It could be put on the website. Mr. Calarco will speak with Bill Skene about what would be appropriate.

7. Trail

- a. Trail Grant

Ms. Teed-Ives provided information that she had printed from the DEEP Connecticut Recreational Trails Program – Grant Guidelines which was displayed as it was discussed/reviewed by the Commission.

There was discussion regarding holding a joint meeting with everyone that would need to be involved (envision the plan) to propose that the Town apply for a grant and to determine who would be in charge (Town Planner?) and the scope: Board of Selectmen; Engineering Service; Town Planner; Planning & Zoning; Parks & Recreation and Public Works (Maintenance Plan); IWWC; Board of Ed; Board of Finance; Federal Representatives (letters of recommendation are needed).

There was discussion regarding ADA accessibility: Carol Randall Section (to the right of the benches) and Creamery Brook connecting to the School and downtown community connections.

Mr. Calarco will request that the BCC be put on the Selectmen's March 28th agenda to discuss future grant applications for open space and trails enhancement in Town. The BCC would, then, like to hold the joint meeting in April.

8. Correspondence

Mr. Calarco explained that he had received an e-mail from Amy Brosnan, Parks & Recreation Director (dated 2-29-2024), regarding trail maintenance and contact information. Mr. Calarco will speak with Amy tomorrow.

9. Public Comment – (Please Note: Public Comments can be heard in their entirety, as well as the entire meeting, by contacting the First Selectman's Office and requesting the link to this meeting.)

There was discussion with Jackie Igliozi, Woodward Road, regarding her concerns and suggestions to support more conservation rather than development in Town.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made by Dana Heilemann to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Second by D. Wimmer. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary