

Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Clifford B. Green Memorial Building
Court Hearing Room
August 6, 2012

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Present: Diane Wimmer, Co-Chair; Jeannine Noel, Co-Chair; Dana Heilemann;
Michael Oatley; Bev Thornton

Cherie Poirier, Ag Commission

The meeting was called to order by D. Wimmer at 7:34 pm.

D. Wimmer to look for draft of April 12, 2012 meeting minutes. The minutes need to be finalized and approved. Motion to approve July 2, 2012 minutes was made by J. Noel. Seconded by B. Thornton. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

The Commission discussed the Earth Day Grant. D. Wimmer was reimbursed for expenses incurred for the event. The Commission will follow up with B. Lohbusch to confirm he was reimbursed.

Motion to amend the agenda to move the discussion of the Farmland Preservation Program - 183 Barrett Hill Road to the front of the agenda was made by B. Thornton. Seconded by J. Noel. Unanimously approved.

Cherie Poirier, Ag Commission member, addressed the Commission regarding a grant under the Community Farms Preservation Program for 183 Barrett Hill Road. The deadline to submit the Grant application has been extended from July 31, 2012 to an unknown date. A map of the property and surrounding area, in addition to a farmland soils map and archeological map will be attached to the recommendation letter to PZC.

Motion to use the Open Space fund in an amount up to \$30,000.00 to assist with the purchase of the development rights of 183 Barrett Hill Road under the Community Farms Preservation Program was made by B. Thornton. Seconded by J. Noel. M. Oatley recused himself on this matter. Motion approved. *(Motion withdrawn. See discussion below.)*

Departure of Cherie Poirier, Ag Commission member

J. Noel discussed the condition of the Creamery Brook trail. The trail has been cleaned up of all brush and the surface has been sprayed for weeds. The trail needs to be re-surfaced. Trail maintenance needs to be put on a schedule.

The Commission discussed the future timber harvest of the Davis Forest.

Arrival of First Selectman Austin Tanner; Bucky Lohbusch, Parks & Recreation;
Residents from Juniper Hill and Salmon Drive

Motion to move Public Comment up on the agenda was made by J. Noel. Seconded
by M. Oatley. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Residents posed comments and questions to the Commission concerning the
proposed Disc Golf Course at Davis Forest. Residents voiced concerns about traffic
and parking issues, Disc Golf Course and park maintenance, amount and character of
the people who would use the course, ATV activity, Disc Golf Course and park rules,
restrooms, speed bumps, and extension of neighborhood sidewalk. Residents
inquired if other properties were considered for the Disc Golf Course.

Public Comment Closed – 8:11 pm

D. Wimmer addressed the residents' comments that all the parks in Brooklyn are
located in residential areas. The Plan of Conservation and Development addresses
the topic of "...develop existing recreational land, or to acquire property for the
construction of athletic fields, passive recreation and other multi-use purposes to
meet both the current and future demands" (POCD, page 60) and "investigate
possible uses for the Davis Property that would serve both conservation and
recreation goals." (POCD, page 61) D. Wimmer stated that meeting agendas and
minutes are posted on the town's website per the Freedom of Information Act.
(www.brooklynct.org) M. Oatley addressed the reasons for choosing Davis Forest
over other properties in town. The Commission will continue to gather information
concerning traffic, parking and usage.

First Selectman Tanner addressed the Commission concerning the Timber Harvest
of Davis Forest. He has been in contact with the state forester. The inventory has
been completed and the timber harvest will move forward this year.

The Commission tentatively scheduled a site walk of the Davis Property for
Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 9:30 am. Residents of Juniper Hill and Salmon
Drive will be notified by mass mailing. An agenda will also be posted at the town
hall and on the town's website. J. Noel to email H. Drinkuth to see if she is available
to attend the site walk.

Departure of Residents from Juniper Hill and Salmon Drive

First Selectman Tanner addressed the Commission concerning the Farmland
Preservation Program. The deadline of July 31, 2012 has passed, but there still may
be an opportunity. The box on the form only asks if the town is willing to donate
more than 10%. A dollar amount is not needed at this time. B. Thornton motioned
to withdraw the previous motion to use the Open Space fund in an amount up to
\$30,000.00 to assist with the purchase of the development rights of 183 Barrett Hill
Road under the Community Farms Preservation Program. Seconded by J. Noel. M.

Oatley recused himself from this matter. Motion to withdraw approved. J. Noel motioned to annotate on the Community Farms Preservation Program form that the Commission will support more than 10% from the Open Space Acquisition Fund to assist with the purchase of the development rights of 183 Barrett Hill Road. Seconded by B. Thornton. M. Oatley recused himself from this matter. Motion approved. First Selectman Tanner commented that the town and state would jointly own the development rights. No report to PZC is needed at this time.

J. Noel followed up on email received concerning a request for a wetlands map of Friendship Valley. D. Wimmer will deliver the map to the requestor. D. Wimmer addressed correspondence. D. Wimmer will give S. Soucy the CACIWC renewal form for the BCC. Informational ERT pamphlet was received. Information from the Department of Corrections concerning a ditch through a wetlands area was received.

The Commission discussed scheduling of its next meeting for Monday, September 10, 2012 at 7:30 pm at the Green Memorial Building due to the Labor Day holiday falling on the regular meeting date.

Motion to adjourn made by J. Noel. Seconded by B. Thornton. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine Noel
Co-Chairperson