

Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Clifford B. Green Memorial Building
March 6, 2017
7:30 PM

Present: Diane Wimmer, Dana Heilemann, Michael Oatley, and Jeannine Noel.
Charlotte Merrill was absent with notification.

A Motion to approve the December 5, 2016 meeting minutes was made by J. Noel.
Seconded by M. Oatley. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

A Motion to approve the February 6, 2017 meeting minutes was made by J. Noel.
Seconded by D. Heilemann. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

New Business, Subdivision Reviews: D. Wimmer stated that the Town has received an application for a 6-lot subdivision on Tripp Hollow Road near the Canterbury line. Jana Roberson has informed the Commission that they need not act on this application until their April meeting.

The Committee discussed the subdivision/site plan review checklist:

- Agriculture Resource Map: approximately one third of the parcel is farmland.
- Water Resource Map: the proposed open space contains wetlands.
- Forest and Wildlife Resource Map: one hundred percent of the parcel is forested.
- Committed Open Space Map: there is none in this area. The proposed open space has potential wildlife corridor linkages.
- Archeological/Historic Map: nothing of any significance.
- View Sheds & Scenic Vistas: none.

D. Wimmer stated that the open space should remain in the owner's name because that is how we handled the previous conservation subdivision. The Commission can recommend a number of restrictions be placed on the property. J. Noel will draft a recommendation for a conservation easement. The Commission will then see whether J. Roberson has any suggestions regarding additional language.

After some discussion, the Commission informally agreed to the following restrictions:

- No mining or gravel operations; no natural resource extraction of any kind.
- No clear cutting, but encourage and support sustainable forest and agriculture practices for the protection of forest based industries and native wildlife. This is consistent with the POCD.

- No dumping.
- No hunting or trapping.
- No structures.
- No fires.
- No motorized vehicles.
- Town reserves the right to inspect the property.
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D. Wimmer noted that according to the POCD, the proposed open space has moderate to high resource value.

D. Heilemann remarked that the POCD charges the Town with the promotion of the use of conservation subdivisions where possible.

D. Wimmer stated that the POCD encourages sustainable forest practices.

The Commission agreed to table a vote on this recommendation pending feedback from J. Roberson.

Financial Matters, Budget: Nothing to report.

Subcommittee Reports, Report on the Board of Selectmen Meeting: D. Wimmer stated that J. Noel did an excellent job in presenting information about a possible fracking ordinance to the Board. D. Wimmer's take on the situation is that while the Board is receptive to the idea, it is not a high priority. In order for this project to move forward, the Commission should continue to be proactive. J. Noel reminded Commission members of an upcoming meeting in Pomfret on fracking.

Old Business, Wildlife Sightings: The Commission discussed various recent sightings of both adult and immature bald eagles in the area.

Old Business, Plants for Riverside: The Commission discussed making a spring plant purchase from the Conservation District. The Commission discussed a variety of options, settling upon the following list of purchases:

- 2 Low Blueberry Bushes
- 2 Pussy Willows
- 1 Mountain Laurel
- 3 Echinacea
- 2 Brown-eyed Susans

A Motion was made by J. Noel to authorize D. Wimmer to purchase \$200 worth of plants for Riverside. D. Heilemann seconded. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence: D. Wimmer discussed correspondence received from Eric Sanderson of the Connecticut Greenway Council.

Sandy Brodeur of the Agriculture Commission has informed the Commission that the Windham County Conservation Consortium will soon be hosting host a guest speaker, Steve Reviczky of the Department of Agriculture, to discuss the current state conflict between preserving farmland and promoting the use of solar farms.

Public Comment: None

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by M. Oatley. Seconded by D. Heilemann. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins
Recording Secretary