

Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Clifford B. Green Memorial Building
April 3, 2017
7:30 PM

Present: Diane Wimmer, Jeannine Noel, Michael Oatley, and Charlotte Merrill.

A Motion to approve the March 6, 2017 meeting minutes was made by J. Noel. Seconded by C. Merrill. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

A Motion to move up Public Comment to Item No. 3 on the agenda was made by C. Merrill. Seconded by M. Oatley. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Public Comment: Bev Burke and Laura Tedeschi introduced themselves. They recently attended a workshop by Jennifer Siskind of Food & Water Watch regarding the dangers of fracking. They are concerned about the expiration of the fracking moratorium established by PA14-200. While HB63-29, which permanently bans fracking waste in the State, has been introduced, they have concerns about the State's ability to enact protective legislation in a timely manner. They favor the introduction of local ordinances as a way to protect Connecticut communities from the dangers of fracking. A number of Connecticut municipalities, including Coventry and New London, have already passed such ordinances. Pomfret is currently working on an ordinance.

D. Wimmer stated that Co-Chair Jeannine Noel attended a similar workshop given by Ms. Siskind. She and Ms. Noel reported on the workshop at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting. The Board of Selectmen seems receptive to the idea of an ordinance, but given that budget season is under way, an ordinance cannot be expected to be a top priority for the Board right now. The Commission intends to be proactive with regard to this matter and plans to submit a draft of a proposed ordinance to the Board of Selectmen for its review in the near future. Ms. Burke and Ms. Tedeschi inquired as to how best to support the Commission's efforts. D. Wimmer suggested that they make their concerns known to the Board.

Ms. Tedeschi expressed concerns about the moratorium being lifted in July. J. Noel explained that PA14-200 requires DEEP to submit draft regulations no later than July 1, 2018. Until such regulations are approved, the moratorium shall not be lifted. The Town does have some time to address this situation.

D. Wimmer suggested that the Commission consider attending the Board of Selectmen meeting on April 27.

New Business, Subdivision Reviews: D. Wimmer stated that she has received no new information concerning SD17-001 of Square 1 Building Associates, Tripp Hollow Road. J. Noel has prepared a draft

of the Commission's recommended deed restriction for the open space set-aside of this 6-lot subdivision. After speaking with Jana Roberson, she added language regarding core forest blocks.

A Motion was made by J. Noel to submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission a recommended deed restriction for the open space set-aside for SD17-001 of Square 1 Building Associates, Tripp Hollow Road. C. Merrill seconded. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

The Commission briefly discussed the challenges of enforcing deed restrictions. The Commission decided to ask First Selectman Ives about the options available to the Town.

Financial Matters, Budget: D. Wimmer had no new information to report.

Financial Matter, Purchase for Earth Day: This item was discussed under Old Business, Plants for Riverside.

Old Business, Plants for Riverside: D. Wimmer stated that Town Hall will process the order directly. There will be no need for reimbursement. She will pick up the plants on April 29. She suggested planting them that day. The Commission agreed to meet between 10:00 and 10:30 at the park. The Commission discussed the best way to demarcate the newly planted shrubs to ensure that they are not mowed down.

A Motion was made by J. Noel to authorize D. Wimmer to purchase plant stakes and caution tape to flag the shrubs. M. Oatley seconded. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

C. Merrill will provide a roll of chicken wire. Commission members are asked to provide their own gardening tools.

New Business, Town wide Earth Day on April 29: J. Noel inquired whether the Commission should have a table at the Community Center, the main staging area for the Town's Earth Day events. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Commission would not be able to staff a table and attend to the plantings on the same day.

New Business, Family Fun Day:

A Motion was made by J. Noel to authorize D. Wimmer to purchase Cowpots for Family Fun Day. C. Merrill seconded. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence: D. Wimmer read aloud a letter addressed to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Planning and Zoning Commission from the Agriculture Commission. They recommend that the tax revenues from the proposed solar panels project in East Brooklyn be placed in the Open Space fund.

J. Noel stated that she let Eric Sanderson of Greenways know that while she will not be available to attend any meetings, she is willing to be a point of contact for the Town,

J. Noel inquired as to the status of the Creamery Brook trail signs. D. Wimmer with check with First Selectman Ives.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins
Recording Secretary