

Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 4th, 2023
Green Building
and Virtual Meeting 7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89199830318?pwd=L1VSeEJISGw0bjkzTkFUaGwxVW1oZz09>

Meeting ID: 891 9983 0318

Passcode: 051547

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,89199830318# US (New York)

+16469313860,,89199830318# US

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

Meeting ID: 891 9983 0318

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbPCUjERx>

MINUTES

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

Present: Richard Calarco William Green; Carolyn Teed-Ives;
Diane Wimmer (arrived at 7:19 p.m.).
Victoria Fradette present via Zoom.
Dana Heilemann was absent with notice.

Staff Present: Raymond Preece, Selectman (seated in the audience).

Also Present: J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary.
There was on additional person seated in the audience: Raymond Preece,
Selectman.

Also Present via Zoom: None.

2. Approval Minutes of November 6, 2023

Motion was made by C. Teed-Ives to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of November 6, 2023, as presented.

Second by W. Green. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0).

3. Public Comment

Mr. Calarco stated that he had received an email from Michael St. Lawrence of the Wyndham Land Trust regarding Little Dipper Farm (dated November 10, 2023) and he read it aloud, for the Record.

4. Budgets

- 2023-2024

Mr. Calarco stated that he will have it available for the January 2024 meeting.

5. New Business

- Open Space

Regarding discussion that had taken place last month regarding open space, Mr. Calarco will forward information that he has collected from the POCD and from the trails to the Commission Members. He explained that the BCC could identify what the Town owns and locate the parcels and trails on the map to develop a potential plan. Mr. Green suggested prioritizing certain areas, such as the River Trail.

The grant process for open space will be in the fall. This year, the State matched 65 percent. Mr. Calarco will find out if an A-2 Survey is needed.

- Subdivisions – None.

6. Old Business

a. Scout Project

- Regarding the Scout who is planning on doing the benches, Mr. Calarco reported that he has not heard back from him.
- Regarding the Scout project at the trail near Public Works, Mr. Calarco reported that he has heard from Bill Skene that he is definitely going to do it, progress is at different levels and it is unclear as to when it will be done.

b. Discussion of Trail Days – See Agenda Item 6.c below.

c. Meeting with Parks and Rec

- Mr. Calarco reported that he and D. Wimmer attended their meeting and informed Parks & Rec that the BCC would provide an annual update.
- Mr. Calarco said that they were very receptive to working with the BCC on Trail Days by providing someone from Parks Staff to do crafts with children for three hours.
- Trails and open space were discussed. The BCC will keep them informed of grants that are being worked on.
- Austin Tanner contacted Mr. Calarco, earlier in the day, regarding a grant (Economic Development) that the Town is considering applying for and would like to know if the BCC would be in support of it.

Motion was made by W. Green to support the Town in seeking a grant
Second by C. Teed-Ives. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0).

Discussion continued. It was suggested to make the Creamery Brook section and the first section from the tennis courts to the softball field, wheelchair accessible. The BCC's recommendation to be included in the Town of Brooklyn's grant application: Trail sections to be worked on with portions to be made wheelchair accessible: Creamery Brook to Carol Randall and continue to Prince Hill to the tennis courts, to make the loop. This would tie-in those facilities with sidewalks to many businesses in Town.

d. 2024 Calendar

Mr. Calarco stated that the dates previously approved for January and September are not available due to another Commission already being scheduled for that time. Mr. Tanner approved for the BCC to meet via Zoom only for those dates (January 2, 2024 and September 3, 2024) due to the conflict.

Motion was made by W. Green to correct the Brooklyn Conservation Commission 2024 Schedule of Regular Meetings to reflect that the January 2, 2024 and September 3, 2024 meetings will be held via Zoom only due to a conflict in scheduling with another Commission.

Second by C. Teed-Ives. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0).

e. Membership

Terms expire at the end of January for R. Calarco and C. Teed-Ives. Mr. Calarco will find out what needs to be done for re-appointment.

At this time Mr. Calarco announced that Ray Preece, newly-elected Selectman, was seated in the audience. Mr. Preece introduced himself to the Commission Members.

7. Trails

a. Trail tour schedule

Mr. Calarco spoke about how Parks & Recreation is looking for information regarding how to best maintain the trails.

Diane Wimmer arrived via Zoom at this time (7:19 p.m.).

Mr. Calarco explained that he filled out a survey for UCONN regarding developing an invasive training program. They would, eventually, like to offer a class for certification in invasives. They would like towns to submit to them problem invasives that have been found. He said that they had been very involved in biological treatment (with insects) to the plants in the past. They are also looking for input from the general public. The survey also asks about whether the towns are developing a forest plan: 1) A comprehensive forest plan would open up the canopy for the good plants to survive; and 2) Would foresters be hired to ensure that it is done right?

Mr. Calarco explained that they are also starting to do town invasive days to identify and educate how to handle the invasives. There was discussion.

At this time there was discussion regarding the January and September 2024 meetings being via Zoom only.

Mr. Calarco filled-in Ms. Wimmer about the discussion earlier in the Agenda regarding open space.

8. Correspondence – No discussion. See Item 3 (Public Comment) above.
2024 Membership

9. Public Comment – None.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made by D. Wimmer to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Second by C. Teed-Ives. No discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault

Recording Secretary

Attachments: Email from Michael St. Lawrence, Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.
Revised 2024 Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates