

**Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, April 1, 2024**

**7:00 pm via Google Meet &
Clifford B. Green Memorial Center
Conference Room
Suite 24, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, CT**

Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/iew-ijjn-fvt>

Or dial: (US) +1 510-957-3217 PIN: 305 948 794#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/iew-ijjn-fvt?pin=5049273838118>

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Chair, Richard Calarco called the meeting to order at 7:04 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.

Present via Zoom: Sharon Antie.

2. Approval Minutes of March 4, 2024

Motion was made by D. Heilemann to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 4, 2024, as presented.

Second by C. Teed-Ives. No discussion.

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

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Budgets

Mr. Calarco stated that he did not have any updates regarding the budgets.

- 2023-2024
- 2024-2025

5. New Business

- Open Space

Review of open space policy of surrounding towns.

C. Teed-Ives provided copies of the research she had done since the March 4th meeting (attached) and explained about the data that she collected from other towns. Brooklyn is comparable to Woodstock and Lebanon. Topics of discussion included the following:

- Survey to find out how the citizens feel about increasing the yearly \$1 per taxpayer, do they want to prioritize preserving open space and what areas (farmland, areas of high co-occurring resources, continuing contiguous land tracts that are near each other, corridors).

There is a federal grant to do the survey. Reference was made to the POCD.

- Towns that are serious about open space put staffing and resources behind it.
 - Can open space money be used for passive recreation (trails)?
 - Money hasn't been being used. There is currently \$216,000 in the Fund.
 - The BCC needs to put together a specific, concrete plan of what properties they would like to prioritize/acquire (outline on a parcel map).
 - There was a suggestion that it would help to educate the residents by putting the following on the website: GIS maps showing the archeological value, endangered species, farmland and water resources.
 - Mr. Calarco will check to see if Manuel Medina, Interim Town Planner, would be able to help with the maps (overlays) showing the parcels.
 - First step is to go to the Board of Selectmen to let them know: 1) that the BCC would like the Town Planner's scope of work to include working with the BCC to help with applications, etc., and 2) To let them know that the BCC is researching identifying our open space and looking at parcels we may be able to either get easements for or to obtain using the open space funds or in collaboration with grants/trusts (this could be presented after completing the research). Mr. Calarco will take care of this and he will also request formal recognition of the Scout programs.
- Subdivisions – None.
 - D. Wimmer explained that Amy contacted her regarding whether the BCC was in charge of the gate to the trail at Riverside as it is falling apart. Ms. Wimmer explained to her that the BCC is not. They are going to install a new gate designed to allow wheelchairs/strollers to enter/exit through the center.
 - Ms. Wimmer also discussed with Amy about Memorial Day and asked if the BCC would like to do the seeds as they have done in the past (seeds/peat pots/soil). She suggested sunflower seeds. Ms. Wimmer said that she would work at it and asked if someone else would help out or she could get some high school students. It would be after the Parade. Brochures could be displayed.
 - Ms. Wimmer commented about sending off for seeds for pollinators from the Monarch Society.
 - There was discussion regarding Trail Day (see Agenda Item 7, below).

Motion was made by C. Teed-Ives to allocate up to \$100 to purchase supplies for the Memorial Day Planting.

Second by D. Heilemann. No discussion.

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

6. Old Business

a) Scout Project

Mr. Calarco explained that it has been on hold due to the weather.

7. Trail Day

Mr. Calarco explained that he was disappointed that Trail Day (at the Carol Randall Trail on June 1st, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.) did not appear in the Recreation Brochure. Ms. Wimmer suggested reminding Amy next year to include it. There was discussion regarding one person being needed to help out. There was discussion regarding it being added to the flyer that is sent homes through the School. Mr. Calarco suggested that the flyer could be attached to the agenda for May. Ms. Wimmer suggested that it could also be put on social media and WINY Radio. C. Teed-Ives will contact the Librarian.

There was discussion regarding the markers that the Science Teacher did for the Carol Randall Trail. Ms. Wimmer explained that there is a need to follow up with IT regarding a Link. Ms. Heilemann suggested testing it before Trail Day to be see if it is working.

8. Correspondence – None.

9. Public Comment

- Sharon Antie, 196 Brown Road, expressed thanks to the Commission for their work, concern about trail safety, and asked questions regarding the earlier discussion and about subdivisions, which Mr. Calarco answered.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made by D. Heilemann to adjourn at 8:13 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