

Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday September 5th, 2023
Brooklyn Community Center
31 Tiffany Street, Brooklyn, CT
and Virtual Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 891 9983 0318

Passcode: 051547

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MINUTES

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

Present: William Green; Carolyn Teed-Ives; Richard Calarco.

Diane Wimmer arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Dana Heilemann was present via Zoom.

Victoria Fradette was absent with notice.

Also Present: J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary.

Also Present via Zoom: Brayden Bardan; Marcus.

2. Approval Minutes of August 7th, 2023

Motion was made by C. Teed-Ives to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of August 7, 2023, as presented.

Second by W. Green. No discussion.

Motion carried by voice vote (3-0-1). R. Calarco abstained as he had not attended that meeting.

3. Budgets

- 2023-2024

Approved, as submitted. Mr. Calarco will forward copies.

The sign, which came out of last year's budget, is in. Mr. Calarco will pick it up. Posts and other things needed for the sign will come out of this year's budget.

4. New Business

- UCONN Training (November 2, 2023)

Mr. Calarco had sent registration information to the Commission Members (by October 6th to get the discount) and he explained about what they need to do to get reimbursed from the Town (it was approved in the BCC's budget – at the discount rate of \$65). He suggested car-pooling. He thinks that there may be a recording available for those who cannot attend.

Mr. Calarco spoke about an invasives workshop that UCONN will be doing in Vernon (in October). He will forward information to Commission Members.

Mr. Calarco will also forward the list of native plants that he received from the State.

There was discussion about the River Park Trail and Mr. Green feels that there is a lot of potential there for fields of wild flowers. He requested information from the DEEP about control burns, but has not heard back yet. Mr. Calarco spoke about how some places use goats.

Mr. Calarco spoke about touring the trails and about the Boy Scout who is working on his Eagle Scout Project which is the trail at the landfill area.

- Land Purchase

Mr. Calarco stated that he has no more information on what had been spoken about last month regarding the Windham Land Trust and Little Dipper Farm.

Jana Roberson will be attending the BCC's October meeting.

There is a potential development that could have a lot of attractive open space.

- Meeting Calendar Update

Mr. Calarco explained that next month's meeting will need to be a special meeting. Ms. Wimmer will be preparing the agenda for the October meeting.

Motion was made by W. Green to move the remainder of the 2023 meetings to the Clifford B. Green Meeting Center, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, CT, at 7:00 p.m., beginning with the meeting scheduled for October 2, 2023, which will be a special meeting.

Second by C. Teed-Ives. No discussion.

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

- a) Subdivision Update
Application 23-001

Mr. Calarco informed the Commission Members that the PZC had approved fee-in-lieu instead of land on a parcel (because that is what had been done with the others) without getting a recommendation from the BCC.

D. Wimmer arrived at this time (7:16 p.m.).

The Commission Members were in agreement that they would like to give an opinion before a decision is made by the PZC. This will be discussed with Ms. Roberson at the October meeting. Ms. Wimmer explained that the developer had not saved the trees as he had said he would and she would have preferred the land instead of fee-in-lieu, in this recent case, to prevent that from

happening to the rest of that land. There was discussion regarding how the developer destroyed all of the wildlife corridors there and now the coyotes need someplace to go. Ms. Heilemann explained that the first time the BCC was in favor of fee-in-lieu because it was a field, but the second time they had supported conserving land.

5. Old Business

a) Trail Maintenance and Sign

Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail

Mr. Calarco will remind Patti Buell that the signs need to be installed.

There was discussion about installing the sign and about the kiosk at the River Tail.

There was discussion regarding touring the trails on a Saturday in October, possibly Riverside Trail and Davis. Mr. Calarco has been seeing mowing at Davis and will get information.

Mr. Calarco informed the Commission Members that the Town has asked for another plan for maintaining the trails. There was discussion. Prince Hill and Davis need to be done. For Riverside meadow, the next third needs to be done (before April 15th or after August 15th due to nesting).

Mr. Calarco will speak with the new Director of Parks and Recreation about getting one their agenda. Ms. Wimmer will forward information from American Trail Days to the Commission Members.

There was discussion regarding sustainable gardening.

Ms. Wimmer spoke with the IT person about the QR codes and having a link on the Town's website to connect to the School's website.

b) Scout Project

Mr. Calarco heard from Bill Skene that the Scout needs to give his final presentation.

Brayden Bardan, 38 Suzanne Lane, Troop 44, was present via Zoom and he explained that he also needs to do a project to earn Eagle Scout. There was discussion. Brayden explained that he could do pathways above water/marshy areas or build benches along trails. Ms. Wimmer commented that benches would be great at Creamery Brook (where minor repairs to bridge walls is also needed) or along the River Trail. The timeframe for Brayden to do the work is March/April 2024 which Mr. Calarco said would be perfect. Mr. Calarco offered to meet with Brayden to discuss what he would like to do and then, it will be put on a future agenda (which will also satisfy the Scout requirement for a public presentation). Mr. Calarco mentioned that there are also other projects that could include mile markers and signs.

6. Trails

a) Trail Tour Schedule

Mr. Green asked if any of the trails are handicap accessible. He commented that the Riverside Trail has a nice flat, stone-dust surface, but you can't get around the gate with a wheelchair. The gate was installed to keep ATV's out. Mr. Calarco will bring it up to Parks and Recreation. Ms. Heilemann asked if there are any grants for handicap accessibility. Ms. Wimmer suggested a gate big enough for a wheelchair to pass through, but no big enough for an ATV. Mr. Calarco suggested finding out if the State will be doing millings again.

There was discussion regarding that Davis Park's ten-year forest plan is overdue. It is self-sustaining with the lumber that is sold. Mr. Calarco explained about how a forester had been hired in another Town and about how the carbon credits can be sold (Yale and the DEEP could be helpful with this). Mr. Calarco will contact Jeannine to see if she has

the plan. Ms. Wimmer recalled that a plan for the trails may have been given to Austin Tanner.

7. Correspondence – None.

8. Public Comment – None.

9. Adjournment

Motion was made by C. Teed-Ives to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

Second by W. Green. No discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary

Attachment: Revision#2 – Brooklyn Conservation Commission 2023 Meeting Schedule