



**Brooklyn Conservation  
Commission**  
P. O. Box 356  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

February 22, 2019

Leona Mainville  
Town Clerk  
P.O. Box 356  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Re: Brooklyn Conservation Commission 2018 Annual Report

Dear Leona,

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2018.

### **Activities\Projects\Grants**

Diane Wimmer was elected as Chair. Michael Oatley resigned from the Commission in December. Treasurer duties remain with the Chair. The Commission is down to three members. The Commission continues to function within a reduced budget.

The Commission maintains a Facebook page. It is updated regularly with events, photos, conservation topics and local information. The Commission also updates its page on the town's website.

<https://www.brooklynct.org/conservation-commission>

At Family Fun Day, Diane Wimmer distributed 150 peat pots with seeds. The remaining peat pots and other materials were donated to Parks and Recreation for their summer programs. The town held an Earth Day event in which Commission members participated by picking up trash and planting flowers and bushes at Riverside Park. The Commission planted ox eye sunflowers, New England asters, wild columbine, common milkweed, false indigo, coneflowers, and potted bee balm which were purchased from the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District Spring Plant Sale.

Jeannine Noel attended the Sustainable CT workshop presented by Jessica LeClair in the spring. She reported that in order to join, the Board of Selectmen would have to pass a resolution to indicate the intent to participate in Sustainable CT and establish a Sustainability Team. The Town would gain points for different actions (example: provide education on water conservation), which would lead to recognition if enough points are gained. This is a free program to get towns involved in sustainability in the environment, housing, local economy, public services, etc. It would allow for more resources, funding, workshops, and interaction with other towns. Jessica LeClair attended a Board of Selectmen meeting and gave a presentation on Sustainable CT. The Board took the matter under advisement. <https://sustainablect.org/>

The Disc Golf Course at Davis Forest continues to be enjoyed by residents. Brooklyn has several trails for residents to explore: Quinebaug River Trail, Maury Bowen Complex, Williams/Ferguson Sanctuary, Milo

Appley Conservation Showcase, Davis Forest, Creamery Brook Trail, Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail, and Donald Francis Recreation Park Trail. Trail maps can be found on the Conservation Commission's page on the Town's website under "Links" and "Brooklyn Trails". The Commission has plans to re-do the signage at Creamery Brook and Davis Forest.

Diane Wimmer and Jeannine Noel attended a rain barrel workshop presented by the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District at the UCONN Extension Center in Brooklyn. A rain barrel will be installed at the town hall in the spring of 2019 for the garden club to use to water the town's flowers. UCONN also has information on their website concerning rain gardens. <https://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/> There is also an APP available for smart phones.

The Commission participated in a Last Green Valley Walktober event. Michael Oatley conducted a workshop at Riverside Park on disc golf. He explained the game and demonstrated throwing discs. Participants practiced handling and throwing discs. The event was well attended. The Commission participated in Spooky Nights by building a pumpkin tower and having a music/light show.

### **Development Reviews**

As a non-regulatory land use commission, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission conducts development site plan reviews and forwards recommendations to the other regulatory land use commissions, Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning. These recommendations are based on review of our natural resource inventory mapping and the potential for impacts from site plan proposals. For subdivisions of three or more parcels, Subdivision Regulations stipulate Open Space donations (quit claim or conservation easement) either to the Town of Brooklyn or other not-for-profit land preservation trust or a fee in-lieu of the property donation.

During the year of 2018, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed one subdivision plan and recommended a fee-in-lieu of open space.

### **Training**

During 2018, Brooklyn Conservation Commission members attended local conservation and land use educational training events and free webinars at <http://clear.uconn.edu/>. These trainings and workshops are essential in developing the skills necessary to protect open space and the environment for future Brooklyn residents. The Commission continues to be a member of CACIWC and to receive copies of The Habitat newsletter quarterly. (CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions). <http://www.caciwc.org/>

Sincerely,

/s/Jeannine Noel

Jeannine Noel

Brooklyn Conservation Commission

cc: Melissa Bradley