



**Brookfield Conservation Commission  
APPROVED MINUTES  
February 8, 2012 7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order –**

A. Dew called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and established a quorum of members.

Present: Alice Dew, Chair; Marj Carmody, Stephanie Landis, Michael Murphy,  
Ryan Blessey, Jeffrey Bronn, William Mercer

Absent: Ralph Manning

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: January 4<sup>th</sup> –**

**R. Blessey made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 6-0.**

**3. Guests and Public Comment:**

*Jan Howard was present to observe the meeting.*

*Keith Wolff was present to discuss the option of a dog park at the Eriksen Farm.*

Mr. Wolff stated that there are 2300 residents in town who own dogs, and this would be a nice service that would be funded privately. Mr. Wolff stated that he has some resources for fencing available for this project. He stated that the dog park would be kept far enough away from the garden at Eriksen Farm. He also stated that he thinks an acre of land would be appropriate.

Mr. Wolff stated that he looked at Happy Landings, Burr Farm, Eriksen Farm, and Williams Park. Mr. Wolff reviewed these potential locations and why Eriksen Farm was the better choice. Mr. Wolff stated that he was willing to take suggestions from the Commission regarding location.

R. Blessey stated that a long-range plan for the Eriksen Farm open space may be a good idea. The Commission can review the map of the Eriksen Farm property and come up with a long-range plan.

Mr. Wolff stated that Spring 2013 was when he believed that the project would be finished. He also stated that the initial investment, he believed, would be about



\$20,000.00 for maintenance and fencing. Mr. Wolff also stated that a committee needed to be formed, and the project needed to be approved by the First Selectmen.

The Commission agreed to advise with each other and discuss this potential project.

#### **4. Correspondence:**

**Conservation Commission Ordinance Change:** A. Dew noted the Conservation Commission ordinance change, and stated that the Commission had approved this item at the last meeting.

**Signs on Open Space Property:** A. Dew noted that she also received an email from D. DiPinto about signs for dog owners. A. Dew stated that D. DiPinto is willing to have new signs made and pay for the placement of the signs. A. Dew informed the Commission of the wording that D. DiPinto would like to use for the new signs.

*J. Bronn entered the meeting room at 7:30 PM.*

The current signs are 12 by 18 inches and the new signs would be 24 by eighteen inches and would be brown with white lettering.

R. Blessey stated that he would also like some new private property signs for the Eriksen and Gurski properties.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report:**

S. Landis reported that the remaining amount in the current budget is \$7347.52.

#### **6. Current Project Reports:**

##### **a. The Nature Center –**

S. Landis stated that K. Yates is the new resident for the home, and stated that Kim has done a great job to improve the home.

S. Landis stated that she and Kim will work together on Chrissy's graden. S. Landis stated that M. Murphy could mow the meadow whenever. S. Landis stated that she would like to take the invasisves and put them on the other side of the meadow for the time-being. S. Landis also stated that she would like to purchase a new picnic table. The Commission agreed that this plan is appropriate.

##### **b. Happy Landings –**



M. Murphy stated that he had no report. The Commission agreed that Dennis DiPinto is working on the windmill installation.

**c. Burr Farm –**

M. Carmody stated that J. Sivo has brought some split rail for the property. M. Carmody will get some estimates for clearing the fence lines.

**d. Williams/Gurski Open Space –**

A. Dew stated that she has nothing to report. W. Mercer stated that there has been a fair amount of clearing done at the Williams Park. A. Dew noted that the group cleaning up the property must be the Parks and Recreation Department. W. Mercer stated that some of the trees have been marked as well.

A. Dew stated that there is a group that is willing to volunteer in the Spring to help clear the trails of any tree debris.

**e. 18 Junction Road –**

S. Landis stated that Leahy's installed new lines for the propane gas. S. Landis stated that she reimbursed the tenant for the service contracts which he had been paying for many years.

R. Blessey stated that he will remove the disconnected space heater and the tank from the property.

S. Landis stated that she checked on the propane grill, and it is not connected to anything. R. Blessey stated that he will also remove the propane grill.

R. Blessey stated that he will be in touch with the tenant.

A. Dew suggested to ask the State to come out with a couple of contractors and the Town's building inspector.

**f. Gurski Homestead –**

R. Blessey stated that it would probably be more beneficial to devise a plan, present it to the State.

R. Blessey stated that he has three names of engineers to contact to review the buildings.



A. Dew stated that E. Cole is reviewing grant opportunities to hire a planner.

R. Blessey stated that the Commission needed a plan for the large parcels.

A. Dew stated that she has catalogued pictures of what was in the shed when the Commission took the property.

**g. Eriksen Farm –**

A. Dew stated that she has a hold harmless that the Town Attorney has reviewed to allow Jason Sivo to use the barn on the property.

A. Dew stated that Jason Sivo stated that he has already submitted the Certificate of Insurance.

R. Blessey and M. Carmody will work on a list of items that need to be accomplished on the property for Jason Sivo to complete in replacement of rent costs to the Commission.

A. Dew noted the lease for the Eriksen Farm. A. Dew stated that she has talked to the Section 8 coordinator for the City of Danbury. The coordinator stated that rents for leases can be done on a month-by-month basis. A. Dew noted that the coordinator stated that the section 8 amount would only be able to be increased by \$25.

A. Dew stated that the lease needs to be signed before March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Commission agreed to do a month-by-month lease. W. Mercer clarified that a month-by-month lease would update itself until one of the parties terminates it.

**h. Land Acquisition –**

A. Dew noted that she had not heard anything yet from the First Selectmen.

**7. Old Business:**

**a. Trail Guides –**

J. Bronn presented the trail guides and explained that the issue with organizing a booklet is that the maps would not be consistent throughout the guide.

S. Landis and J. Bronn will work on the trail maps.

**b. 500 B Federal Road –**



R. Blessey made a motion to recommend that the Board of Selectmen accept the donation of 500B Federal Road of 3.42 acres. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 7-0.

**Bluebird Day –**

A. Dew stated that she spoke with Mary McGuinn and it is scheduled for the last week of April.

S. Landis asked that the terms be added to the contact sheet. E. Cole will contact the Commissioners that need to be sworn in.

**Gardens:**

R. Blessey proposed that the garden at the Gurski Homestead is moved upward to the next parcel. R. Blessey suggested that parking be placed near the stonewall. R. Blessey also suggested putting a water tower on the property. He stated that this area is up behind trees and seems to be out of the sight of the homestead. R. Blessey stated that he would like to discuss this option with the Lions Club to remove the garden from the homestead location. R. Blessey stated that he is trying to isolate that area and would like the homestead to have an old farm feeling to the property.

M. Murphy stated that the current location of the garden is the natural spot to have a garden.

**Adjourn –**

**M. Carmody made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 PM. S. Landis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 6-0.**