

Approved Minutes
Brookfield Conservation Commission Meeting
September 18, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Present at the Brookfield library were Jon Binhammer, Jon Jickling, Susan Shea, Sarah Shaw, Starr Strong

1. Review Agenda
2. Public Comment - none
3. Approval of Minutes of the August 2023 meeting – Starr moved to approve, Jon J seconded. All voted in favor to approve the minutes.
4. September 8th Program at Old Town Hall Recap
 1. Starr, Jon B, Jon J attended from CC as representatives. Approximately 10 public members attended.
 2. Was not very well advertised, but the group was interested and asked some good questions.
5. Allis State Park Walk (9/17) Recap
 1. 13 attendees, plus 3 CC members including Jon J, Starr, and Susan
 2. Feedback for additional programming included a winter tree ID walk, fern walk, and other flora ID.
6. Sunset Brook Marsh Natural Area – Post Flood Assessment
 1. The bridge is still displaced
 2. Considering moving picnic tables to the platform and more permanently affix them. One could also be moved to Sunset Lake Park so there would be two.
 3. Starr suggested the Commission members plan a spring visit to determine what infrastructure projects make sense.
 4. Other ideas include construction of a boardwalk and potentially a beaver blind to observe wildlife without having a crossing that may eventually get damaged in future weather events, interpretive/educational signs,
 5. Permitting requirements would dictate future projects (i.e. no ground disturbance)
 6. Next steps: Disassemble picnic tables and store them for the winter, replace broken parts as needed.
7. Brookfield Elementary School Visit
 1. Jon B is looking to meet with the new principal to explore outdoor activity opportunities, such as a tree planting day.
8. Wildlife Underpass Update
 1. Jon J got the game camera ready for installation. Jon J and Starr will coordinate to get it installed and recording.
 2. Jon B shared he would try to speak with Taplins again to explore an agreement for access.
9. New business

1. Pete Fellows (TRORC) responded with acreage figures for the Planning Commission – total acreage of town is 26,700. The wildlife overlay is 1,400 acres, conservation zone is 8,550 acres, compared to the former conservation zone of 5,400 acres and wetlands of 1,510 acres. This will be presented to the Planning Commission.
 2. Future opportunities may include winter nature walks at Moon Mountain Horse & Wildlife Refuge or other local areas
 3. Conservation Commission members may plan for an educational trip to other areas of interest in the state.
10. Jon J moved to adjourn, Jon B seconded, all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm – the next meeting is October 16, 2023.

DRAFT