

# Meeting Minutes

Brookfield Conservation Commission Meeting

October 16, 2023

7:00 pm Regular meeting at Brookfield Library

Present: Jon Binhammer, Jon Jickling, Marty Allen, Susan Shea, Starr Strong

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm by Jon Binhammer

1. Review Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes of the September 2023 meeting
  - a. Jon B made a motion to approve the minutes with suggested edits, Jon Jickling seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Sunset Brook Marsh Natural Area picnic table move
  - a. Jon B and Jon J dismantled and moved the two picnic tables, one relocated to viewing platform and the other to Hippo Park.
  - b. Next steps are to salvage other materials that were disrupted in flooding, including the boardwalk – timing to be determined. The bridge will be abandoned.
  - c. Spring 2024 – Will discuss any rebuilding.
5. Brookfield Elementary School – Visit with principal Cara Houston
  - a. Jon B visited with Cara Houston a week ago. There is interest in collaborating. School recently received a grant for farm-to-school programming. Raised beds will be moved on the property, perhaps near outdoor education space. Talked about possibility of growing wildflowers.
  - b. Jon B encouraged creation of a master plan, and shared resources for creating a schoolyard habitat. School will get back to the Commission regarding potential future programming.
6. I-89 Underpass Update
  - a. Jon J, Starr and a volunteer placed camera in mid-September. Over 400 pictures captured since placement, including several of deer moving across the underpass.
  - b. Jon B suggested that the photos be sent to the State for review.
  - c. Susan Shea suggested more data be collected, Sarah S agreed and said there may be more animal activity in the next several weeks prior to hibernation periods.

- d. Jon B will contact attorney for Department of Fish & Wildlife to get an agreement drafted to share with the Taplins.
  - e. Starr will review the photos to catalog species seen and quantities, and will draft a preliminary report to send to VTrans.
  - f. Jon J will reset the camera for addition data collection.
7. New Business
- a. Winter Education Programs –
    - i. Winter Tree Identification at Allis State Park was expressed as a topic of interest from the September event.
    - ii. Jon B also suggested a tracking program on the conserved land behind the Taplins.
    - iii. Potentially for February 2024. Ski outing at Moon Mountain was also suggested.
    - iv. Starr also volunteered to do a program on her recent trip to Alaska or Galapagos in March
    - v. Marty suggested collaboration with the Garden Club to do a program on pollinator species in April.
8. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03PM
9. Next meeting is November 20, 2023