

Branford Conservation and Environment Commission
P.O. Box 150
Branford Town Hall
Branford, Connecticut

MINUTESG

WEDNESDAY, January 6, 2021

7:30 P.M.

Held by remote technology as authorized by Executive Orders 7B and 7I

Present: Chairman Dan Fitzgerald, Carol Kaminsky, Patrick Sweeney, Christie Day

Absent : Peter Yates, Karen Hannon, Karyl Lee Hall

Adrian Bonenberger joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. December 2, 2020 meeting minutes

The minutes were postponed to the next meeting.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

A thank you note was received from Tisko School for the library books.

A membership notice was received from: The CT Audubon Society, The Native Plant Trust and The CT Land Conservation Council.

The Commission discussed whether to renew these memberships or not.

Carol Kaminsky made a motion to renew the CT Audubon Society membership. Christie Day seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the Native Plant Trust and decided to get further information before deciding whether to renew.

Chairman Dan Fitzgerald will check with the prior chair Karen Hannon to get further information on the Land Conservation Council before renewing.

3. New Business:

The Commission briefly discussed the Atlantic Wire site.

Commissioner Christie Day thought the owners were cited for failure to cover the debris pile and Commissioner Patrick Sweeney thought the bricks on the site were being analyzed for any potential problems.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Fitzgerald displayed current financial information for the Commissioners to see the amounts in the various accounts.

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that budgets are due February 5, and that the

budget amounts will remain the same as last year.

He reminded the Commission they voted to purchase uv plastic sheets for weed prevention at the last meeting. He said he spoke with the Finance Dept. and they will purchase them thru the towns amazon account.

He said he will get more information for the next meeting.

He then briefly discussed the other budget line items.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

No new permits were discussed.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

The Mariner's Landing mixed use project was briefly discussed. It was recently approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

C. Invasive plant control

Commissioner Patrick Sweeney noted the invasive plant pull near Pine Orchard Rd. was well attended. He said he has been trying to coordinate groups to work with the Branford Land Trust. The Commission discussed the possibility of having speakers at an upcoming meeting, perhaps in the spring. Commissioner Patrick Sweeney said he would try to line up speakers for future meetings. More information to follow. This would be a learning opportunity for the public on the best ways to remove invasive plants.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Chairman Fitzgerald noted the next update is due in 2023. He will email the Commission the current one to review. He said some of the items should be done by a specialist or with assistance from DEEP.

E. Branford Festival

Chairman Fitzgerald didn't think there would be a festival this year due to the pandemic.

F. Animal Ordinance

Nothing was discussed since Commissioner Karen Hannon was absent.

G. Pollinator Pathway

Commissioner Christie Day apologized that she has no new information to discuss at this meeting but will at the next meeting.

H. Earth Day

Chairman Fitzgerald suggested having a mini Earth Day with scaled down activities. This can be discussed at the next meeting.

I. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

Chairman Fitzgerald said Commissioner Karyl Lee Hall composed a letter regarding this issue which he submitted. It mentions the Commissions requests for sidewalks and underground power lines.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Chairman Fitzgerald said he spoke with Bill Horne and First Selectman Jaime Cosgrove but there is nothing new to report.

B. Library books donations

Commissioner Carol Kaminsky noted this issue is closed for the year.

C. Spill reports

Chairman Fitzgerald said he will be putting the link to the CT Data Center on the town website regarding this item.

D. Contaminated sites

Nothing new was discussed.

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan

Chairman Fitzgerald he will have more information regarding this at the next meeting.

F. Website

Chairman Fitzgerald said the old website has been taken down and we are now using the town website. The Commission needs to decide what information they want to post to the site. This can be discussed at a future meeting.

7. Other:

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Submitted by:

M. Martin (Clerk)