

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

MINUTES

***WEDNESDAY, February 12, 2020 - Special Meeting
7:30 P.M. JOSEPH TRAPASSO COMMUNITY HOUSE
FIRST FLOOR ACTIVITY ROOM
30-48 CHURCH STREET, BRANFORD, CT***

Present : Chairman Karen Hannon., Co-Chairman Dan Fitzgerald, Adrian Bonenberger,
Patrick Sweeney, Eleanor Saulys, Karyl Lee Hall (arrived at 8:08pm)
Absent: Carol Kaminsky

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. January 8, 2019 meeting minutes
Comm. Saulys made a motion to approve the January 8, 2020 meeting minutes as amended. Co Chairman D. Fitzgerald seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
2. Correspondence and Announcements
 1. Permit for a dock on Pot Island
 2. Natural Plants newsletter was distributed.
3. New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.
4. Budget:
 - A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date
Chairman k. Hannon noted there are 2 open purchase orders.
The Commission discussed various species of trees that would be suitable to plant near the memorial tree. Also, the idea of a plaque being placed there was briefly discussed.
5. Continuing Business:
 - A. Permits for coastal projects
No new permits to review.
 - B. Proposed developments and other building projects
The new Aldi supermarket and the bank near Exit 53 will be discussed at the 2-13-20 Inland Wetlands meeting. Drainage is a concern. Co-Chair D. Fitzgerald will attend the meeting and bring information to the next meeting.
 - C. Invasive plant control
Co-Chair D. Fitzgerald spoke of the upcoming Earth day on 4-25-20 and some of the activities that are planned. He noted that the Public Works dept. is starting to clear invasive plants from the rear of the Early Learning Center and the area to Chet's pond in order to prepare the area for the Pollinator Pathway planting.
 - D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)
Copies were given to the teacher at Branford High School who requested them. The Commission discussed the need for a replacement for Noble Proctor (who worked on the previous Inventory). Co-Chair D. Fitzgerald thought that the Fall would be a good time to start the project. The Inventory is due by June 2023.

The Commission briefly talked about the need for new Commissioners to join the group and they offered some suggestions.

- E. Branford Festival
Co-Chair D. Fitzgerald will meet with Laura who is working on a recycling display. He also said the Oceanology group will have a table or 2 at the Earth day event.
 - F. Animal Ordinance
Chairman Hannon said she thinks the next step is to meet with First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove to discuss the animal shelter expansion project and to update the ordinance regarding animal waste. And also to promote responsible pet ownership.
 - G. Pollinator Pathway
Co-Chair D. Fitzgerald said there is a subcommittee that meets the first Monday of the month that is made up of people from different groups throughout town. They meet and discuss various sites for the Pollinator Pathway project. Comm. Sweeney said there is a link for plants that would be suitable for the Pollinator Pathway.
Co- Chair D. Fitzgerald suggested a plant sharing day in the Spring. More details to follow.
 - H. Atlantic Wire Site
Comm. Hall reviewed the records and it looks as if the permits are in place but she stated she didn't have the qualifications to determine any risks. An attorney is needed to determine the risk and if so, it needs to be reviewed by DEEP.
 - I. Earth Day
This was previously discussed.
6. Reports:
- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition
Comm. Saulys said she is retiring from this group as well as the Conservation Commission so a replacement will be needed. She noted that the replacement for the Open Space Acquisition replacement should be someone from the Conservation Commission.
 - B. Library books donations
Nothing to discuss.
 - C. Spill reports
No new spills to report
 - D. Contaminated sites
Nothing new to discuss
 - E. Coastal Resiliency Plan
Nothing new to discuss
 - F. Website
Chairman Hannon will meet with Jenn by month's end.
Comm. Bonenberger will try to set up a meeting with her as well to assist her with the website.
7. Other:
8. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.
Submitted by: M. Martin (Clerk)