

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

## **MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, March 4, 2020 - 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, Lana B.

Absent: Carol Kaminsky, Karyl Lee Hall

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. January 8, 2019 meeting minutes

Co Chairman D. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the February 12, 2020 meeting minutes as amended. Comm. P. Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Lana B. was welcomed as a new member to the Commission. She introduced herself and said she has some experience working with various committees on environmental issues, which she briefly highlighted.

3. New Business:

Comm. P. Sweeney said Shirley McCarthy has been working to revise the Landscaping Section in the Zoning Regulations as well as David McCarthy in the Inland Wetlands Dept. He then distributed copies of the proposed changes to the commissioners. He said that Shirley is looking for the Commission's support for these revisions. The Commissioners then had a brief discussion and decided they would draft a letter of approval after they reviewed the changes, Comm. P. Sweeney agreed to draft the letter.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman K. Hannon said the budget is due next week. She noted the largest item is the Natural Resource Inventory. Co Chairman D. Fitzgerald noted the amount can be divided among three years. Other items that were mentioned included the metal plaques designating the Pollinator Pathway properties as well as the plants that need to be purchased for the Branford Festival.

The Commissioners decided to ask for an increase to the Conference budget to enable more Commissioners to attend various conferences thru out the year.

Co Chairman D. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the budget.

Comm. A. Bonenberger seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

No new permits to review.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

Co Chairman D. Fitzgerald reported that he attended the previous Inland Wetland meeting to learn more about the proposed Aldi supermarket and bank project. The IW Commission advised the applicant to redesign the drainage and use the existing footprint proposed. He will report back to the commission when new information is received.

- C. Invasive plant control  
Co-Chair D. said the target area is the Branford Early Learning Center. One idea proposed was hosting a weekly clean-up of the area and invite the public to participate.
  - D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)  
Nothing new to discuss.
  - E. Branford Festival  
Co-Chair D. Fitzgerald will verify the Commission's table location. This item will be discussed more at future meetings.
  - F. Animal Ordinance  
The Commission discussed a few ideas to make the public aware of the problem of dog waste when dogs are allowed to roam; such as little orange flags marking areas of waste, spray chalk or some type of sign posting.  
Chairman K. Hannon suggested Memorial Day as a goal date to come up with some draft signage. Co chair D. Fitzgerald offered to compose a draft article for a press release.
  - G. Pollinator Pathway  
Co-Chair D. Fitzgerald said the subcommittee met the previous Monday and had some brief comments. He also said the High School and the library are preparing some planting beds. He noted a planting party is planned for May 2 where the public can participate in planting the Pollinator Plants.
  - H. Atlantic Wire Site  
No new information to discuss.
  - I. Earth Day  
Co Chair D. Fitzgerald said Lana had some ideas to improve Earth Day. He reviewed the current Earth Day activities. Lana then presented a powerpoint noting there are 4 sections of activities: reduce, recycle, reuse and restore. She briefly highlighted each one. She then mentioned other ideas she had for the day such as: tree plantings, tours of Branford Center, yoga on the green, clean up days and others.
6. Reports:
- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition  
Nothing new to discuss.
  - 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 K. Hannon and Comm. Bonenberger will meet with Jenn asap to work on the website.
7. Other:
8. Adjournment  
The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.  
Submitted by: M. Martin (Clerk)

Commented [MM1]:

Commented [MM2R1]:

Commented [MM3R1]: