

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, May 1, 2019
7:30 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER
11 CHERRY STREET, BRANFORD, CT

Present: Chairman Karen Hannon, Eleanor Saulys, Mike McGuinness, Carol Kaminsky,
Karyl Lee Hall, Adrian Bonenberger

Absent: Dan Fitzgerald, James Yakimoff

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. April 3, 2019 meeting minutes
Comm. Karyl Lee Hall made a motion to approve the 4-3-19 meeting minutes with the correction of “Loss Lake” to “Lost Lake” noted by Comm. Saulys.
Comm. Saulys seconded the motion.
Comm. Kaminsky abstained.
2. Correspondence and Announcements:

Aquarion Environmental Champion Award notice was received.
Comm. Bonenberger noted that the letters and the link are now on the webpage.
A DEEP notice was received regarding dredging & fill at 61 Sunset Beach Road.
3. New Business:
 - A. Comm. Bonenberger noted that Comm. Fitzgerald said 125 people recently attended the Branford Clean-up day and over 1,000 lbs of trash was collected as well as 3 potential new members were identified to join the Commission.
 - B. Comm. Bonenberger spoke of the “Pollinator Pathways Project” , noting there are 2 upcoming meetings in May that will be held in Guilford. The idea of the project is to plant a series of native species along a predetermined line. This helps the insects that are traditional pollinators in this area. He also noted that Pat Sweeney who is involved with this program had recently submitted his paperwork to the First Selectman’s office to become a member of this Commission.
 - C. Comm. Kaminsky noted that the land cleared by Pine Orchard Rd. looks good. She thought she saw someone from the town spreading milkweed along the property edge.
 - D. Comm. Saulys talked of invasive species and said the largest population of ranunculus vicarious celendeen (an aggressive invasive) surrounds the stop sign by the railroad tracks .You have to dig it up to remove it. She explained how the plant grows.
 - E. Comm. Karyl Lee Hall had a few questions regarding the Pollinator Pathway Program. Comm. Bonenberger explained it is a State run program and it will help to determine what type of flora we should be encouraging and where to plant it. He said the meetings will be May 11 and 25, location is unknown.
 - F. Comm. Karyl Lee Hall asked that the Scenic Road Committee be added to the future agenda under Continuing Business. They are continuing to meet and she will keep the Commission up to date regarding what is discussed.
4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairperson Hannon said she went to the recent Rules and Ordinances meeting and there are funds available to spend in the next couple months. She said they can purchase trees and ask the tree warden where they are needed. Perhaps purchase some wildflowers as well. Comm. Karyl Lee Hall noted she would love to spend funds on items that are directly related to the Commission's mission. Comm. Saulys suggested spending funds on Open Space mapping. She said perhaps hiring a UNH GIS student that would be put in charge of looking and adjusting the maps where necessary. She said Bill Horne had noted there were errors on the map. She said it is the Commission's responsibility to take care of the open space mapping pr. statutory requirements, She also stated that Rich Orsen did the previous Natural Resources inventory and maybe he would be available to assist with this.

Chairman Hannon said she will get in touch with Bill Horne to assist as well. Comm. Bonenberger talked of perhaps purchasing a drone with some of the available funds to record terrain. The Commission discussed this briefly.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

Comm. Saulys said she would reach out to the contact person at DEEP and ask to be emailed future correspondence.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

St. Elizabeth property has been purchased by the Massimino developers.

C. Invasive plant control

The Commission discussed Mugwort, stating it is an excellent insect repellent.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023) –Chairperson Hannon said this is in the Commissions sites along with the open space mapping.

E. Branford Festival-Chairperson Hannon said the Commission will meet one more time before the Branford Festival. She suggested rainwater collection as a possible idea for the festival table. She can contact Regional Water Authority for ideas. Comm. Bonenberger suggested distributing packets of seeds at the Festival. Comm. Sauly reminded the Commission to only purchase local seeds (not packaged in China).Comm. Kaminsky will get in touch with Terry Elton and Dan to coordinate the table.

F. Animal Ordinance-There is nothing new to report. Chairman Hannon noted she attended the Rules & Ordinances meeting and she was able to see the process and noted they spoke of the plastic bag ordinance and it will go to the RTM now.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- They don't meet until June.

B. Library books donations – The books for Tisko School will be brought to them within the next few weeks.

C. Spill reports- No spills to report

D. Contaminated sites- Comm. Karyl Lee Hall said she looked online and will update the Commission at the next meeting.

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan- There is no update.

F. Website- Chairperson Hannon is collecting pictures for the website and will meet with Jenn again.

7. Other:

8. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.