

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, June 5, 2019
7:30 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER
11 CHERRY STREET, BRANFORD, CT

Present: Chairman Karen Hannon, Eleanor Saulys, Carol Kaminsky, Karyl Lee Hall, Dan Fitzgerald, Adrian Bonenberger
Absent: James Yakimoff

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. May 1, 2019 meeting minutes
Comm. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the 5-1-19 meeting minutes with the corrections noted by the Commission.
Comm. Saulys.
2. Correspondence and Announcements
The Audubon Society newsletter was received.
An email was received from J. Frederick (past Comm. Clerk) regarding the DEEP approval of a seawall on 50 Cocheco Avenue. This was a duplicate item. It was previously discussed at the last meeting.
3. New Business:
 - A. Comm. Karyl Lee Hall suggested Comm. Fitzgerald co-chair the Commission with the current Chairman Karen Hannon and he accepted. Comm. Fitzgerald suggested holding an annual vote for Chairman.
Comm. Bonenberger made a motion to nominate Comm. Fitzgerald for Co-Chair.
Comm. Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - B. The Commission discussed the Natural Resources Inventory List. Comm. Kaminsky volunteered to revise the list.
 - C. Comm. Fitzgerald requested that the "Pollinator Pathway" item be added to future agendas for discussion.
 - D. Comm. Bonenberger brought up the problem of the birds at the train station either getting trapped in a certain area or flying into the glass dividers. The Commission discussed various remedies to these problems and Comm. Karyl Lee Hall volunteered to speak with Bill Horne and report back at the next meeting.
4. Budget:
 - A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date
Chairman Hannon noted there were funds available to spend and reviewed the amounts and the categories. She also said the purchase orders need to be submitted by 6-30-19. The Commission then discussed various ideas such as: pollinator trees, seeds and brochures for distribution at the Branford Festival and funds to pay someone to work on the Natural Resource Inventory.

Comm. Karyl Lee Hall made a motion to purchase seeds and Chestnut trees.
Comm. Bonenberger seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
Chairperson Hannon then spoke of the Grounds Maintenance budget .Comm. Saulys asked if someone would volunteer to go to the Bridge on Montowese Street (near the Eye Dr.) and pull out the invasive plants. Comm. Kaminsky volunteered to do it. The next budge item that was discussed was “Other Supplies”. Comm. Fitzgerald suggested reflective vests with the wording” Branford Conservation Commission” on the back.
Comm. Kaminsky made a motion to purchase the vests, and it was seconded by Comm. Karyl Lee Hall.
It was decided that the funds available in the “Memberships & Conferences Budget “would be used for any Audubon Memberships that may be due.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

This item is the correspondence that was received. This was a seawall repair at the end of Cocheco Avenue, which was previously discussed at the May meeting.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

A new Hampton Inn will be built at the site of the current Branford Motel.

A new 12 unit residential building will be built on the lot between 233 & 249 East Main Street.

C. Invasive plant control

Nothing new to discuss.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Nothing new to discuss.

E. Branford Festival

The Commission decided to distribute seed packets for the Pollinator Pathway Project at the festival. They also discussed booth coverage for the festival.

F. Animal Ordinance

Comm. Fitzgerald suggested putting some information regarding this on the Facebook page. Chairman Hannon wants to promote responsible cat ownership. They discussed possible penalties for non- licensed dogs and the ongoing issue of dog owners not picking up after their dogs. Comm. Karyl Lee said further discussions regarding these issues should follow, perhaps at a future meeting.

G. Scenic Roads

Comm. Karyl Lee spoke briefly of the “Crabbing Bridge “and said the DOT is reconsidering the bridge design. The project will be delayed indefinitely.

H. Open Space Inventory

Nothing new to discuss.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Nothing to discuss.

B. Library books donations

Comm. Kaminsky said the last of the book donations were being delivered to Tisko School.

C. Spill reports

No new spills to report.

D. Contaminated sites

No new sites to report.

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan
Nothing new to discuss.

F. Website

Chairman Hannon reported the old website is no longer available for viewing.
The new website is up and is coming together.

7. Other:

8. Adjournment - 8:48 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Martin