

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

MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, January 4, 2023

7:30 P.M.

This was held by remote technology as authorized by Executive Orders 7B and 7I.

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Heather Wells-Sweeney, Neil Goodlad, Patrick Sweeney, Carol Kaminsky, Joshua Greenberg, Cynde Jasek, Christie Day, Adrian Bonenberger

Commissioners Absent: Karyl Lee Hall, Karen Hannon

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. December 7, 2022

Christie Day made a motion to approve the minutes.
Patrick Sweeney seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

Chairperson Heather Wells- Sweeney announced that commissioner Neil Goodlad has been sworn in as a commissioner so he can officially vote.

She then suggested maybe the commissioners would like to use a separate email address for commission use. The group discussed this briefly and said they would think about it. If they would like to change their email information, please let Carol Kaminsky know so she can update the commission address list.

Neil Goodlad asked if the group could meet in person for the February meeting. Carol Kaminsky is in Florida but the rest of the group agreed. The meeting will be February 1 at 7:30 pm at the Community Center.

Chairperson Heather Wells-Sweeney said the meeting calendar should be a calendar year so the group discussed the meeting dates for September thru December of 2023 and everyone agreed on the dates.

Carol Kaminsky made a motion to approve the meeting dates for Sept. thru December of 2023.

Joshua Greenberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. New Business: Nothing was discussed.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date
Chairperson Heather Wells-Sweeney reviewed the budget information.
The group had a brief discussion.

5. Continuing Business:

- A. Permits for coastal projects- None
- B. Proposed developments and other building projects-Nothing new was discussed
- C. Invasive plant control
Patrick Sweeney noted there has not been a lot of activity lately.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)
Christie Day said she went to Town Hall and spoke to Tyechia in the Finance Dept. about the RFP process. She needs to submit a list of names of people for the RFP. She noted she is not having a lot of success gathering names.

E. Branford Festival- Nothing was discussed.

F. Pollinator Pathway

Chairperson Wells- Sweeney said she is working with a scout group who is helping with Mug wort removal.

She will send a reminder email to this group looking for volunteers the next time there will be a work date for invasive removal.

Neil Goodlad said he is trying to get in touch with a skilled bee keeper and hopefully they would be willing to attend a meeting and speak.

Chairperson Wells-Sweeney said she is hoping that we can get a new person to join the commission and take over the Pollinator Pathway project.

She also noted that she is working with a group that is working on organizing the Earth Day event set for April 15. She asked that if anyone had ideas for this event, please let her know and she will share them with the group.

Another point is the litter clean up on Earth Day. She noted that they need to get more public interest. Patrick Sweeney suggested incorporating invasive plant removal along with litter pick up.

The commission then discussed using Facebook to generate more interest. Neil offered to look into that further.

Carol Kaminsky suggested using the Branford Patch and the Sound Newspaper as well.

Cyde Jasek suggested having the high school students that need to put in their community service hours help out.

G. Earth Day

H. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford) –Nothing was discussed.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- Nothing was discussed.

B. Library books donations

Carol Kaminsky has not heard back yet from the elementary schools librarians with their book requests. She will remind them.

C. Spill reports- None

D. Contaminated sites - None

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan- Nothing was discussed.

F. Website

Chairperson Wells–Sweeney said she met with Debi Mirto from the IT Dept. and the new website is coming soon.

7. Other:

A. Tweed Airport Expansion

Chairperson Wells-Sweeney reminded the commission that Karyl lee Hall drafted a letter on behalf of the commission urging them to do a more robust environmental study. Karyl Lee Hall has attended a few meetings so far on this topic. More information to follow.

Adrian Bonenberger mentioned at the last RTM meeting a letter was submitted by a former RTM member requesting that the Town of Branford formally get involved in this issue. The commission discussed this briefly.

8. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm

Submitted by: M. Martin (Clerk)