

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

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

7:30 P.M.

Was held by remote technology as authorized by Executive Orders 7B and 7I.
Commissioners Present: Chairman D. Fitzgerald, Hannon, C. Kaminsky, A.
Bonenberger, H. Wells-Sweeney, P. Sweeney, C. Day

Commissioners Absent: K. Lee-Hall

Chairman D. Fitzgerald noted that the first item that will be discussed is the banning of leaf blowers that is listed under Other Business.

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. November 3, 2021 meeting minutes

A. Bonenberger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written.

P. Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Correspondence and Announcements---None

C. New Business:--None

D. Budget:

a. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Fitzgerald reviewed the financial information. He noted he located a storage shed and will have it moved to the Early Learning Center as soon as possible.

E. Continuing Business:

a. Permits for coastal projects----None

b. Proposed developments and other building projects

A new Amazon warehouse is planned for Commercial Pkwy and a multi-family residential project is planned for 61 Burban Drive.

c. Invasive plant control – P. Sweeney noted he saw a survey stake in a new location at the Anderson Lookout site.

d. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Chairman Fitzgerald said he hasn't received a response from DEEP but he is working with the First Selectman on this.

e. Branford Festival

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that as far as he knows, it will take place

this year. More details to follow.

f. Pollinator Pathway

Chairman Fitzgerald said he did a few plantings at the Early Learning Center. He still has a few plants that will be planted around the new shed.

g. Earth Day

Chairman Fitzgerald said the Commission may have a table set up on that day. The Commission can distribute trash bags to residents and advise them of areas that need cleaning. P. Sweeney suggested asking people to pull invasive plants as well. H. Wells - Sweeney suggested giving away tree seedlings as well and maybe distribute materials about leaf blowers. She thought an interactive display was a good idea to educate the public on different topics.

h. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford) – No new information.

F. Reports:

a. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Chairman Fitzgerald said he sent them an email re: Property adjunct to Medlyn Farm. No reply was received yet.

b. Spill reports--None

c. Contaminated sites --None

d. Coastal Resiliency Plan—None

e. Website

Chairman Fitzgerald said some of the items on the website have been updated.

C. Kaminsky said she emailed the IT Dept. (Debi Mirto). She will Work with Chairman Fitzgerald to update the website further.

G. Other:

a. Discussion- Banning Leaf Blowers

This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

Laurie Halderman spoke first with a PowerPoint. She said she got curious about the effects of leaf blowers and compiled this PowerPoint. The PowerPoint highlighted the negative effects of leaf blowers such as possible hearing damage, putting pollutants into the air, etc. She noted that some communities are starting to ban them.

Some commissioners commented.

H. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned

Submitted by: M. Martin (clerk)