

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

REVISED MINUTES

***WEDNESDAY, October 2, 2019
7:30 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER
11 CHERRY HILL ROAD, BRANFORD, CT***

The meeting started at 7:33 p.m.

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

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. Sept. 4, 2019 meeting minutes

Comm. Bonenberger made a motion to approve the 9-4-19 with the corrections noted.

Comm. Saulys seconded the motion.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

Emails were received regarding the success of the Branford Festival.

An email from Shirley McCarthy saying that the Tree Commission offered to give the Commission funds to purchase trees. She spoke of planting them along Rt. 146, next to Richlin. Chairman Hannon said she will reply to Shirley and ask her for a plan regarding the planting.

An email was received from Bob Costanza was previously discussed earlier in the meeting.

3. New Business:

1. The Commission decided to discuss New Business first because residents of Wilford Avenue were present and wished to speak.

Bob Costanza spoke first saying there are piles of rubble at the Old Atlantic Wire Company site. He is concerned because they are not sitting on a liner and the site is a designated brownfield tight on the Branford River. The problem is the old brick and product should have been separated out .Maybe it should have gone to a plant and been burned down to get rid of any bad product. He also said that no permits were issued for the demolition. Also, was a pre demo survey done? He then said he learned that it's not the towns responsibility to issue permits. He also stated that the owner of the property needed to hire a licensed consultant that is certified with the state and then they have to report what they found at the demo site. His concern is the rubbles are sitting there almost 3 years now and the contaminates are airborne, noting that most old brick contains asbestos. He said he knows it requires a state permit but can the town monitor it? Can the town request that the property owner cover the piles of rubble? He asked how this can be prevented from happening again.

Wayne Cook spoke next and distributed material to the Commission. He said that people sometimes bring him their concerns because they know he will look into them. He brought this complaint to the RTM and they dismissed it. He then talked of the complaint between the developer and the property owner and suggested the Commission read it. He said the building was built in 1906 and brick made before 1980 has asbestos in it. He mentioned a friend of his that lives near the Atlantic Wire site and his concern with the dust in the air. Wayne said the issue should be looked at. He referred to a letter from the East Shore Health district to DEEP. He closed by saying he has sent letters to the RTM, DEEP and has submitted a FOI request to the Public Health Dept. He stated it's important to get involved.

David Minicozzi (neighbor of Bob Constanza) spoke and said he read the complaint and his understanding is the current property owner took on the responsibility for the remediation and once completed, it will transfer to the developer.

The Commission discussed this briefly.

The Commission welcomed the new Commissioner, Patrick Sweeney.

Wayne Cook spoke again briefly saying he has 2 concerns;

1. He spoke of the excavation right up to the wetlands at the Pine Orchard Country Club.
2. The Berm issue at East Island Road and Rt 146. He said the berm was removed and now it's flooding and it is a serious environmental problem. He suggested maybe the berm should be repaired and use funds from the Coastal Resiliency Fund.

2. Comm. Bonenberger said his wife produced a 20 minute documentary about the Branford Supply Ponds to commemorate the 50 year anniversary of its acquisition by the town. He posted it on You Tube and the Conservation Commission Facebook page. He would like to post it on the Land Trust page also. He said everyone that has seen it has been pleased with it.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Hannon noted that the Commission spent all the available funds in the budget.

Comm. Hall said the Commission can request more money to cover the cost of the Natural Resource Inventory.

Comm. Fitzgerald said he received a bill of 250.00 from April for copies he made for the Branford Clean-up day. He will submit it to the Finance Dept.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

None to report

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

M. Martin spoke of a possible residential development proposed for Burbank Drive and Summit Place.

C. Invasive plant control

Nothing to discuss.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

This will be discussed with Jim Finch in Finance.

E. Branford Festival

Nothing to discuss.

F. Animal Ordinance

Nothing to discuss.

G. Pollinator Pathway

Comm. Fitzgerald said the town supports this and they would like to kick this program off. He noted that The Garden Club has teamed up with the high school and last spring planted pollinator plants. He would like to book a room and have a kickoff event, possibly in early November.

Comm. Kaminsky said she joined the Garden Club and perhaps have an exhibit at the kickoff event. She said the Garden Club was going to recommend areas around the new Community House for pollinator plants.

The Commission agreed to a kickoff event with a presentation.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Comm. Saulys said there is a meeting on Monday, October 7.

B. Library books donations

Comm Kaminsky sent emails to the schools regarding books relating to the Pollinator Pathway and they replied. She will deliver the requested books asap.

C. Spill reports

None

D. Contaminated sites

None

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan

Nothing to discuss

F. Website

Chairman Hannon noted the site is still not live, she is gathering more information.

She asked the Commissioners for assistance and Comm. Bonenberger offered to help.

7. Other:

Comm. Saulys reported there is an upcoming CACIWC meeting on November 23 at the Red Lion in Cromwell. She will email the information to the Commission.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully Submitted by M. Martin (Clerk)