

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

MINUTES

Wed. October 4, 2023

Joseph Trapasso Community House -

Conference Room B - 1st Floor

7:00 P.M. in person strongly preferred

Zoom link below

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Heather Wells Sweeney, Neil Goodard, Carol Kaminsky, Karen Hannon, Joshua Greenberg, Patrick Sweeney, Christie Day (arrived at 8pm)

Commissioners Absent: Karyl Lee Hall, Cynde Jasek

Topic: Conservation Commission 10_4_23 Zoom Meeting

Time: Oct 4, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

1. Approval of Minutes

- A. June 7, 2023- These are tabled to the next meeting.
- B. June 22, 2023- These are tabled to the next meeting.
- C. September 6, 2023- These were not approved. Chairperson Sweeney has some edits and she will email to clerk for correction.

2. Announcements and Correspondence

Chairperson Sweeney reviewed the survey questions that were sent to the commissioners and discussed the answers that were received.

Chairperson Sweeney noted that the upcoming CACIWIC conference is coming up on November 11 if anyone wishes to attend. It's a good opportunity to learn what other towns are doing.

Carol Kaminsky made a motion to approve the funds for whoever wishes to attend the conference. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Sweeney noted that Rich Shanahan (Manager of Open Space) mentioned if the commission has a long term contract with anyone providing a service, there is a budget process for that.

On a different note, Carol Kaminsky mentioned that during the various events where the commission distributed plants to the public, a lot of the plants were given to non-residents of Branford. Is that a concern? How can we keep the plants in Branford so they will be planted here?
The commission discussed this briefly.

3. Priority- and goal-setting

Chairperson Sweeney noted that education outreach was mentioned several times as a goal in the survey responses. The commission discussed a few possible outreach ideas.

The commissioners talked of the natural Resource Inventory and they hoped the new one will be more interactive and available to more people. They talked of having a town wide long term plan for the forests.

Chairperson Sweeney suggested a possible speaker series that can cover an array of topics of interest to the commission.

She then mentioned that she is cohosting an event online thru the Blackstone Library that will be discussing seeds in New England Plants.

Also noted was an upcoming seed walk at Jarvis Creek Farm. Chairperson Sweeney will send out more information for this event.

4. Budget and spending

Carol Kaminsky suggested increasing the library budget to \$600.00 from last years budgeted amount of \$500.00.

Patrick Sweeney made a motion to increase the library budget to \$600.00. Joshua Greenberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Chairperson Sweeney suggested a possible speaker series that can cover an array of topics of interest to the commission.

Chairperson Sweeney would like to plant Black Eye Susan plants and dwarf sumac shrubs in Foote Park. She would like to purchase 5 at \$30.00 each noting they should be planted soon.

Christie Day made a motion to spend \$200.00 for plants at Foote Park. Carol Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Old business

Christie Day gave a brief update of the Natural Resource Inventory. She met with the subcommittee who compiled some comments about the draft. Christie would like to include photos of Branford into the document, maybe rock croppings, photos of flooding, etc.

Karen Hannon said she has photo equipment and would be glad to take some photos. She asked Christie to email her a list of photos she would like and she will do it.

6. New business- Nothing was discussed.

7. Adjournment – 8:25 pm