

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

## ***MEETING***

## ***MINUTES***

**WEDNESDAY, October 5, 2022**

**7:30 P.M.**

Held by remote technology as authorized by Executive Orders 7B and 7I.

Commissioners Present: Heather Wells-Sweeney, Karen Hannon, Patrick Sweeney,  
Cynde Jasek, Adrian Bonenberger, Carol Kaminsky,  
Karyl Lee Hall

Commissioners Absent: Christie Day

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. September 7, 2022 meeting minutes

These were not approved since they were incomplete. K. Hannon will send her notes from the meeting to the clerk to complete them.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

Chairperson Heather Wells Sweeney noted that our new commission member Joshua cannot attend the meeting in April due to Yom Kippur. This meeting date may be rescheduled.

She also noted that she will keep the commission posted on the CT Sustainable announcement coming in October.

3. New Business:

Chair Heather Wells Sweeney noted that she is attending the upcoming CACIWIC meeting on October 29. Everyone is invited to attend and it is virtual As well.

Patrick Sweeney made a motion to approve funding for the commissioners To attend the meeting.

Karen Hannon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Patrick Sweeney mentioned he spoke to Shirley McCarthy and she had a good idea to have some collaboration between different commissions to promote Branford having more eco-friendly yards. The commission discussed this briefly.

Karen Hannon noted that the idea of keeping cats contained to yards would also Be an idea to go along with the idea of eco-friendly yards so that they are not Wandering.

Adrian Bonenberger suggested coming up with a list of possible commissions such as: this commission, Forestry Commission, Inland Wetlands, Parks & Rec, Open Space Acquisition, and Land Trust. He thought maybe a quarterly or a biweekly meeting would be helpful. Also, having 2 or 3 agenda items that each group could discuss would be an idea.

Karen Hannon noted that the Town of Ridgefield made it a requirement to use native plants on town owned property. Maybe that would be a good place to start.

Patrick Sweeney said he is on the Forestry Commission and he will bring it up at their next meeting.

4. Budget:
  - A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Carol Kaminsky asked about an old outstanding Purchase Order from 2017. It was intended for work in the Blackstone area.

Chair Heather Wells Sweeney reviewed the budget row by row.

Patrick Sweeney said he has been working with Lauren Brown and a small Group of volunteers to clear from Stony Creek and the area on Montowese Street. He said he will write some notes about this area on Montowese Street and he will go to Town Hall and speak with the Finance Dept. to see if the old Purchase Order can be used to hire a company to come in and help clear the area since it is a mess.

5. Continuing Business:
  - A. Permits for coastal projects- None
  - B. Proposed developments and other building projects-
    - M. Martin (clerk) mentioned the new research and lab building proposed on 819-841 East Main Street.
  - C. Invasive plant control –

Patrick Sweeney mentioned working at Red Hill Road and Montowese Street and also Youngs Pond. He said the group will work until the ground is frozen.
  - D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)-

Christie is absent and hopefully will have more information at the next Meeting.
  - E. Branford Festival- Nothing to discuss
  - F. Pollinator Pathway-

Chair Heather Wells Sweeney reported that she and Patrick planted plugs at the Early Learning Center and Anderson Lookout. She noted that They still have to finish up at Foote Park. She asked the commission for any volunteers to help plant. A few commissioners volunteered.
  - G. Earth Day—Nothing to discuss
  - H. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford) – Nothing to discuss

6. Reports:
  - A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- Nothing to discuss

- B. Library books donations –  
Carol Kaminsky said she texted the librarians and she received a list from The Walsh School librarian. She also asked the librarians if they would be interested in subscriptions to conservation magazines. She is waiting for responses.
- C. Spill reports- the clerk (Michelle Martin) said she is on the email list for notifications for these as well as the contaminated sites.
- D. Contaminated sites
- E. Coastal Resiliency Plan- No updates
- F. Website-  
Carol Kaminsky said she is almost done with the updates and will review them with the Chair.

7. Other:

- A. Tweed Airport Expansion  
Karyl Lee Hall noted she is in contact with the “Save the shore group”. She reminded the group that they had previously sent a letter with their concerns. She thinks the door may be closed on public input. She knows there is growing concern along the shoreline.

The Commissioners discussed this briefly and Adrian Bonenberger and Karyl Lee Hall will monitor this and report back to the commission. Karyl Lee said she has a petition and signs available for anyone who is interested.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm