

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

MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, November 1, 2023

Branford Community Center, 30-48 Church St., [Activity Room](#)

7:30 P.M.

or via Zoom with the link below if unable to attend.

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

Commissioners Absent: Cynde Jasek, Karyl Lee Hall

The meeting started at 7:37 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes

A. June 7, 2023

Carol Kaminsky made a motion to approve the 6-7-23 minutes.

Patrick Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. June 22, 2023

These minutes were tabled pending a few edits from Chairperson H. Wells-Sweeney

C. October 4, 2023

Carol Kaminsky made a motion to approve the minutes with the edits discussed.

Patrick Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

Nothing was discussed.

3. New Business:

- #### A. Consider whether or not to send a letter in support of Branford Land Trust's grant application for Jarvis Creek Farm. The grant is to increase public access, remove invasive plants and replace with natives, and to facilitate upward marsh migration due to sea level rise. Chairperson Sweeney explained that there is a berm in the back of the farm that would be adjusted to allow for marsh migration. She suggested sending a letter from the commission stating the commission's support of the Branford Land Trust grant application.

Neil Goodlad made a motion to send the letter.

Carol Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Calendar for 2024 meetings

The commission reviewed the dates and noted that the October 2 meeting should be changed to October 9 due to a Jewish Holiday.

Karen Hannon made a motion to approve the meeting calendar with the change discussed.

Christie Day seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2024 - year to date

Chairperson Wells- Sweeney reviewed each line in the budget.

She noted that 8 shrubs were purchased from EarthTones and were planted next to the parking lot at Foote Memorial Park.

She noted that there is no proposed spending for next month.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Priority- and Goal-setting

Nothing was discussed. Chairperson Wells-Sweeney noted she would like the December meeting to start at 7pm instead of the usual 7:30 pm to enable the commission more time to discuss priorities and goal setting for the upcoming year. She asked the commission members to think about this and let her know if they could attend for 7pm.

B. Permits for coastal projects- None

C. Proposed developments and other building projects- None

D. Invasive plant control

Patrick Sweeney noted that Mile-A-Minute vine was discovered at Jarvis Creek Farm, and its removal is slated for the spring.

E. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Christie Day arrived at 8 pm. She said she has had no new information from the engineering group.

Karen Hannon noted she about half done taking photos for the NRI. She will talk with Robin further and copy Christie.

F. Branford Festival- Nothing was discussed

G. Earth Day- Nothing was discussed

H. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford) – Nothing was discussed

I. Farm River coalition-

Chairperson Wells-Sweeney stated there was an aquatic invasive plant discovered in North Branford. Some of it was removed and the property owner got a price quote for mechanical removal of the remaining invasive. There hopefully will be a grant submitted.

She also noted there is an upcoming meeting on Nov 16 at 4pm at 113

Meadow Street (East Haven) to discuss removing the tide gate from the Farm River at this location. She spoke of a few legislators who will be in attendance. This first step is to listen to the neighbors' questions and concerns. Barring objections, the idea is for a grant to be submitted to cover the cost of a feasibility study to determine possible impacts of removing the tide gate.

Also of note was a prior cleanup day at Farm River in which about 15 people came to help. They pulled a substantial amount of trash from the river. She was encouraged because there was not a lot of plastic bags in the trash.

6. Reports:

- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- Nothing was discussed
- B. Library books donations
Carol Kaminsky asked if the purchase order for \$600.00 was submitted.
- C. Spill reports- None
- D. Contaminated sites - None
- E. Coastal Resiliency Plan-Nothing was discussed.
- F. Website- No new updates.

Chairperson H. Wells-Sweeney gave a brief update on the 3-part series hosted in partnership between us, the Branford Land Trust, and the Blackstone Memorial Library. There was an online video talk which had a great turn out. And she noted there was a seed walk last week which about 14 people joined. She noted the library is a great resource. Ivy Kim will be hosting a winter seed-sowing workshop at the library on Saturday November 4.

7. Other:

- A. Tweed Airport Expansion- Nothing was discussed

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm