

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, November 4, 2020
7:30 P.M.

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

Present: Chairman Dan Fitzgerald, Carol Kaminsky, Patrick Sweeney, Adrian Bonenberger,
Karyl Lee Hall, Christie Day, Karen Hannon, Peter Yates

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. June 17 & July 8, 2020 meeting minutes

Comm. Patrick Sweeney noted that the word "items" should be added to the last sentence in the paragraph above the approval of minutes.

It was also mentioned that in the sentence prior to the last one, Carol Kaminsky's name should be removed.

Comm. Carol Kaminsky made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended.

Comm. Patrick Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

An email was received from the Inland Wetlands Dept. noting that the CACAIW membership was paid jointly with them.

Correspondence from the Forestry Commission was received noting that they will be planting 10 disease resistant Elm Trees and shrubs.

3. New Business:

1. Comm. Karyl Lee Hall spoke of the Scenic Roads Commission that was formed in the late 90's. She noted that a year ago a proposal to turn the crabbing bridge in Guilford into a super highway was delayed. They felt that the area should be studied and that will move forward soon. She spoke of the rising water and the effect on that road. Comm. Karyl Lee Hall said that this is very important and wanted the Commission to be aware of it. She also welcomes any input the Commission may have.

She asked that the item be added to future agendas.

2. Comm. Carol Kaminsky mentioned that last year Steve Perrotti removed invasive plants down by the bridge on Montowese Street. Perhaps we can ask him to come back again this year and clean this area.
Chairman Dan Fitzgerald said he is meeting with the First Selectman soon and he will ask about that area. Comm. Patrick Sweeney volunteered to go and look at the area first. He said he would go sometime that week.

4. Budget:

- A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that funds were used for the CACAIW membership and library books were purchased.

5. Continuing Business:

- A. Permits for coastal projects

Nothing was discussed

- B. Proposed developments and other building projects

Nothing was discussed

- C. Invasive plant control

Comm. Patrick Sweeney met with the Chairman of the Parks & Open Space Commission and discussed how this Commission could assist them in their projects.

Comm. Sweeney also noted he plans to meet with Gary Zelinsky from the Public Works Dept. to come up with a plan to combat invasive plants in town.

The Commission briefly discussed whose responsibility it is to remove the invasives.

- D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Chairman Dan Fitzgerald said he is meeting with First Selectman Cosgrove that week. He also noted he would like to catalog the trees at Foote Park. He asked the Commission for their input regarding compiling a catalog of trees on town property. The consensus was the Commission agreed it was a good idea.

Comm. Peter Yates spoke of the damage at the top of the supply Ponds due to the recent storm. He noted many trees are lost and it looks terrible. The Commission discussed this briefly and agreed planting trees there would make sense. They agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting.

- E. Branford Festival

Nothing was discussed.

- F. Animal Ordinance

Nothing was discussed.

- G. Pollinator Pathway

Chairman Dan Fitzgerald displayed a map of Branford and talked of different properties that may be involved in the program but noted that no

decisions have been made since areas of town need to be assessed first. He noted there are many smaller properties in town that they can start with and teach people that are interested what plants should be planted, etc.

- H. Earth Day
Nothing was discussed.

6. Reports:

- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition
Chairman Dan Fitzgerald said he is planning to meet with First Selectman Cosgrove that week to discuss this and verify what the role of the Conservation Commission is in relation to this Committee.
- B. Library books donations
Comm. Carol Kaminsky said she ordered library books for the various schools and listed them. She noted the total for the books were \$205.59 but she is still waiting to hear from a few librarians so that total will change.
- C. Spill reports
None to report.
- D. Contaminated sites
None were discussed. Chairman Dan Fitzgerald noted that he contacted DEEP and future information will be sent to the website.
- E. Coastal Resiliency Plan
Chairman Fitzgerald said he planned to speak with the First Selectman to see where the Conservation Commission can fit into the plan.
- F. Website
After some discussion, the Commission decided to post their information on the town website. Chairman Dan Fitzgerald talked to the IT Dept. for further information.

- 7. Other:
No other business was discussed.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.
Submitted by M. Martin (clerk)