

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, November 6, 2019
7:30 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER
11 CHERRY STREET, BRANFORD, CT

The meeting started at 7:33 p.m.

Present: Chairman Karen Hannon, Co-Chairman Dan Fitzgerald, Patrick Sweeney, Karyl Lee Hall, Eleanor Saulys, Adrian Bonenberger

Absent: James Yakimoff, Carol Kaminsky

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. Oct. 2, 2019 meeting minutes

Comm. Bonenberger made a motion to approve the 10-2-19 meeting minutes as amended.

Co-Chairman Fitzgerald seconded the motion which passed.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

1. Letter from Wayne Cook reviewing what was discussed at the 10-2-19 meeting.
2. The Habitat Newsletter was distributed to the Commission.
3. Information from Dept. of Transportation re; a dredging permit on Rt. 146 (Limewood Ave) seawall
4. A notice of tentative determination approval of the Town of Branford Sewer Plant (permit renewal)

3. New Business:

Co-Chairman Fitzgerald said he spoke with Shirley McCarthy who spoke with someone at the CT Dept. of Transportation and was told if the Commission completes a form stating what properties should be included in the Pollinator Pathway Project

then the town could plant pollinator plants there. Comm. Fitzgerald said he compiled a list and submitted it.

The Commission decided to add the Atlantic Wire item under Continuing Business since it will be discussed again in the future. It will be item "H".

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Hannon said there is nothing new to report.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

This was previously discussed.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

Nothing new to report.

C. Invasive plant control

Co-Chairman Fitzgerald said the Public Works Dept. is interested in the Commission assisting with invasive plant control using work groups from the Pollinator Pathway Project. He noted there is a large amount of Mugwort at Ecology Park, Burning Bush at the Supply Pond and Beacon Hill is another problem area.

Chairman Hannon mentioned perhaps purchasing a butane torch to destroy the invasive. The Commission said maybe the Fire Dept. would do a controlled burn of problem areas.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Co-Chairman Fitzgerald noted there may be high school students that would be willing to get involved to help with this project. He will follow up on this.

E. Branford Festival

Chairman Hannon said there is nothing new to report.

F. Animal Ordinance

Chairman Hannon said there is nothing new to report.

G. Pollinator Pathway

Co-Chairman Fitzgerald said the kick off date is 11-15-19 at the Fire Headquarters. He noted the Pollinator Pathway.org group has accepted Branford into their chapter. He also said there will be shoreline representation from New London to Greenwich. The purpose of the kickoff is to garner support for the project, and define the pathway. They will also discuss ways in which the Commission can assist.

He also said a subcommittee needs to be established of all members who are interested in helping, such as the Branford Garden Club and Land Trust and library. The committee will compile a list of potential properties that may be suitable for the Pathway.

One of the main themes of the project is to use native plants and avoid pesticides. Comm. Saulys recommended a plan called "New Jersey Tea" to attract pollinators.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Comm. Saulys reported there is no movement on the Kinney property.

She also said she was approached recently after a recent meeting by someone who is doing work on various trails and he had closed 2 trails at the Supply Ponds. These trails are currently being used by mountain bikers. She told him she had been to a recent meeting in Wallingford and there were a few members of the public present that are members of the Mountain Bike Association and they are looking for new trails to be made at Tyler Mill and they are lobbying. So, we should expect that will happen here. The problem is they want to put trails in thru areas that don't support trails, nothing that mountain bike trails create ruts; which divert water flow. She suggested this may be something that the Commission

should look into further.

B. Library books donations

Chairman Hannon reported this project is complete.

C. Spill reports

Chairman Hannon said there are no new spills to report and she will follow up to ensure that this item stays up to date.

D. Contaminated sites

Chairman Hannon said there is nothing new to report.

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan

Chairman Hannon said there is nothing new to report.

F. Website

Co-chairman Fitzgerald said he will work with Jennifer on the website. The Commission discussed various ideas for the website.

7. Other:

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,