

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

## ***MINUTES***

**WEDNESDAY, December 2, 2020**  
**7:30 P.M.**

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

Present: Chairman Dan Fitzgerald, Carol Kaminsky, Patrick Sweeney, Karyl Lee Hall,  
Peter Yates, Christie Day, Karen Hannon, Adrian Bonenberger (arrived at 7:48)

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. November 4, 2020 meeting minutes

Chairman Fitzgerald abstained, stating he did not review them.

Commissioner Carol Kaminsky made a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Commissioner Patrick Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements:

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that the CACAIW membership has been renewed with the  
Inland Wetlands Commission with a discounted rate.

3. New Business:

No new business was discussed.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Fitzgerald stated there are available funds in the budget and suggested  
purchasing plastic sheets to help with the removal of invasive plants since it kills  
weeds under the plastic. He said about 20 bags of invasives were removed and  
brought to the transfer station. This is part of the pollinator path project.

He suggested spending \$500.00 on plastic and asked the Commissioners for input  
on this idea and suggestions of other items needed. They discussed this briefly.

**Commissioner Bonenberger made a motion to approve purchasing up to  
\$500.00 on UV plastic sheets.**

**Commissioner Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Chairman Fitzgerald spoke saying he enjoys the Saturday projects and felt it would  
be beneficial for the commission to have their own tools. He suggested  
purchasing 2 shovels, loppers, gloves, safety glasses and tree saws. Commissioner  
Day suggested leather sleeves to help with the removal of prickers. Chairman  
Fitzgerald suggested purchasing 2 sets of the items so it would be enough for 2  
teams of people working and using approximately \$500-\$750 out of the budget.

The Commission discussed this and the consensus was that amount was reasonable  
to spend. Chairman Fitzgerald suggested further discussion of this item at the  
January 2021 meeting.

Chairman Fitzgerald then discussed the Natural Resources Inventory and noted there is money in the budget for that. He said the last Inventory was completed in 2013 and it's time for an updated version to be completed. He suggested having a kick-off to start this and said there are rules on how to compose the inventory and what's included in it. He talked of forming a subcommittee to work on this separately. Commissioner Hannon spoke of Project Feeder Watch. Commissioner Karyl Lee Hall suggested contacting other towns to view their Inventory.

Chairman Fitzgerald then reviewed other open items in the budget.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

Chairman Fitzgerald reviewed the DEEP email that was forwarded from the Inland Wetlands Dept. He said he signed up to be notified of any permits for coastal projects.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

No projects were discussed.

C. Invasive plant control

Chairman Fitzgerald noted he is asking Gary from Public Works to drop off a dumpster for the coming weekend. He was planning to go to Anderson Lookout that weekend since there is a lot of property to clear.

Commissioner Sweeney mentioned he spoke with First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove about invasives and he was interested, and suggested the Commission stay with smaller scale projects.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Chairman Fitzgerald wanted to propose a date for the kickoff and mentioned a few ideas he had.

E. Branford Festival

Nothing was discussed.

F. Animal Ordinance

Commissioner Hannon drafted a revision to the ordinance. She will distribute it to the commissioners and asked for their comments at a future meeting.

G. Pollinator Pathway

Commissioner Day said she would like to develop a visual dictionary to assist people that are interested in participating. By the January meeting, she will have a list of plants that may be useful to assist people. She will review it with Commissioner Sweeney.

H. Earth Day

The Commission discussed this briefly and decided to continue the discussion to the January or February meeting.

I. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

Commissioner Karyl Lee Hall gave a brief history of this project noting there was a zoom meeting on December 2 regarding this project. She encourages people to participate in the public hearings. She will monitor the progress of the project and keep the commission informed. Chairman Fitzgerald noted he was at the meeting and gave the commission a few comments.

Commissioner Bonenberger left the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Chairman Fitzgerald noted a Commissioner from this board should be on this committee. He said Bill Horne will attend the January meeting to give more information as to what this entails.

B. Library books donations

Commissioner Kaminsky gave a brief report on the books that were distributed noting the total amount for all the books purchased was \$493.40.

C. Spill reports

There were no new reports to discuss but the Commission will continue to monitor them.

D. Contaminated sites

Commissioner Yates volunteered to assist with this item as well as the spill reports since he has experience working with hazardous chemicals.

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan

Chairman Fitzgerald noted he spoke with First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove and learned that this item is in the Planning & Zoning Dept.

The commission can monitor upcoming projects but there is nothing new to discuss at the current time.

F. Website

Chairman Fitzgerald said he is working on this and will keep it updated.

7. Other:

A. Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule

**Commissioner Day made a motion to approve the 2021 meeting schedule.  
Commissioner Yates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Submitted by: M.Martin (clerk)