

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, December 4, 2019
7:30 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER
11 CHERRY STREET, BRANFORD, CT

The Meeting began at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Chairman Karen Hannon, Adrian Bonenberger, Patrick Sweeney, Karyl Lee Hall,
Carol Kaminsky

Absent: James Yakimoff, Dan Fitzgerald, Eleanor Saulys

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. November 6, 2019 meeting minutes
Comm. Karyl Lee Hall made a motion to approve the 11-6-19 meeting minutes as amended.
Comm. Bonenberger seconded the motion which passed.
2. Correspondence and Announcements
 1. Permit for dredging & fill at 146 Sybil Creek.
3. New Business:

Nothing new to report.
4. Budget:
 - A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date
Nothing new to report
5. Continuing Business:
 - A. Permits for coastal projects
None
 - B. Proposed developments and other building projects
An application for a bank and Aldi Grocery store at the end of Exit 53 is currently being reviewed by the Inland Wetland Commission.
The Commission briefly discussed the Osprey nests at the top of the telephone poles and options to relocate the nest.
 - C. Invasive plant control
This will be discussed with the Pollinator Pathway item.
 - D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)
Co-Chairman Dan Fitzgerald is in the process of gathering information about student volunteers. Comm. Karyl Lee Hall noted that a leader for the project

should be secured. She said someone like Rich Orson (who worked on the last version) is needed. Chairman Hannon said a PDF version is available and she would send it to the Commissioners for review. The Commission could then discuss it at the February or March meeting.

E. Branford Festival

Nothing new to discuss.

F. Animal Ordinance

Chairman Hannon said she saw in the Branford Patch that the Animal Shelter wants to expand and double in size. They went to the Board of Finance to introduce the idea. They may have a design by the spring. She said the basis of the expansion is to keep up with the demand of abandoned animals.

Chairman Hannon noted this may be a good time to talk about the animal ordinance and perhaps that would cut down the number of abandoned animals.

Comm. Karyl Lee Hall noted it may be helpful for the Commission to have a copy of the draft ordinance for future discussions.

Chairman Hannon said the current draft ordinance is vague.

G. Pollinator Pathway

Comm. Said the Kickoff event went well and there has been a few follow up conversations since then. Comm. Patrick Sweeney is currently working on metal medallions that designate a pollinator pathway garden. The people that participate will receive one and they can display it in their garden. The Commission would purchase them and the participants follow the criteria then they are eligible to receive one. The criteria states no pesticides will be used and native plants are encouraged.

Comm. Bonenberger said they hope to hold the first meeting for this in January.

H. Atlantic Wire Site

Nothing new to discuss.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Nothing to discuss.

B. Library books donations

Comm. Carol Kaminsky said the library books have been delivered and the total for them is \$298.01.

C. Spill reports

None

D. Contaminated sites

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan

Nothing to discuss.

F. Website

Chairman Hannon said there are ideas and photos planned for the site.

7. Other:

Bill Horne (Branford Land Trust) spoke next and had a sketch showing an open space parcel that has been offered to the Branford Land Trust. It is a 37

acre parcel on Cherry Hill Road, It is Dan Cosgrove estate which is being sold. There are 25 acres of the parcel that contain wetland soils. He said it has been maintained as a lawn with big trees and some landscaping .He noted there is a lot of edge to backyards which may present some issues down the road. He suggested the Commission and the Forest Commission could collaborate and develop a plan to manage the property. He explained that over the course of the coming years, plants such as winterberry and Colthea that are beneficial to pollinators could be planted. He suggested this project could be a separate fund apart from the Branford Land Trust. He then said that this is a concept at this point and if they are going to proceed, they will need to talk to someone who has knowledge of how to turn a lawn into a meadow.

Comm. Patrick Sweeney said he knows a few people that would be qualified to advise them.

Bill Horne asked the Commission if they approved of this idea and if they were interested in working with the Branford Land Trust on this and the Commission agreed.

Comm. Karyl Lee Hall made a motion stating the Commission expresses interest in working with the Branford Land Trust and the Community Forest Commission to explore the concept presented by Bill Horne for creating pollinator habitat at the former Cosgrove property.

Comm. Carol Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.