

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

MEETING
MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2023
[Branford Community Center, 30-48 Church St., Activity Room](#)
[7:00 P.M.](#)
or via Zoom with the link below if unable to attend.

Commissioners Present: Heather Wells –Sweeney, Karen Hannon, Patrick Sweeney, Christie Day,

Karyl Lee Hall, Carol Kaminsky, Neil Goodlad, Joshua Greenberg

Commissioners Absent: Cynde Jasek, The meeting started at 7:04 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes

- A. June 22, 2023
- B. November 1, 2023

C. Kaminsky pointed out a typo in the June 22 minutes. She then made a motion to approve the June 22 minutes with the revision and the November 1 minutes as written.

C. Day seconded the motion which passed.

Karyl Lee Hall abstained since she was absent.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

- A. Volunteer Fair at Blackstone Library Jan 13, 2024,
10am – 1pm

Chairperson Wells-Sweeney noted that fair is coming up and they had several people volunteer at the prior fair in June. She then asked the commission for help to prepare for the fair and also the day of. N. Goodlad offered to assist.

Chairperson Wells-Sweeney noted that Michelle (clerk) had sent out a few Magazines that arrived to the commissioners.

3. New Business:

- A. Main Street Renovation

P. Sweeney spoke and explained the town is planning a renovation project for Main Street which will impact the trees. Many of the existing trees will be replaced. He noted that some of the trees are under the prevue of the Town Green committee. he plans were shown to the Forest commission and the Green committee. They are concerned because many of the trees are non-native and they felt

natives should be planted. He said the First Selectman is supportive of native trees.

J. Greenberg asked if they could send a letter of support for the planting of native trees.

K. Lee Hall asked for more details of what the project entails.

N. Goodlad asked why they decided to plant nonnatives? Due to the cost?

P. Sweeney then spoke of the application for changes to the landscape regulations. He noted maybe he would speak to Shirley McCarthy and Peter Hentschel about this.

J. Greenberg made a motion to submit a letter of support for the planting of native trees in the Main Street project.

N. Goodlad seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

N. Goodlad made a motion to move forward with working on the Landscape Regulation revisions.

K. Lee Hall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. Budget:

a. Fiscal year 2024 - year to date

Chairperson Wells Sweeney said there were no new items to discuss.

5. Continuing Business:

a. Priority- and Goal-setting

Chairperson Wells Sweeney displayed the notes from the 9-23-23 meeting and a list of the commission prior projects. She reviewed the highlights from the meeting.

She then added that many properties in town that aren't parks and not managed by open space. She sent a letter to open space committee asking who manages those properties. She gave an example of a parcel that's not being managed correctly. She asked the commission to think about this and maybe then can discuss it at next month's meeting. The commission discussed this briefly.

The group then brainstormed about smart development noting that over development is a problem.

Chairperson Wells Sweeney noted that Ivy from the Forest Commission has been talking about the library making a rain garden. They are working on how it will be maintained.

The group then discussed the commission's 5 year plan and she reviewed the prior list the group made. They added a few more items to the list such as better ordinances for animal control.

b. Permits for coastal projects—None

- c. Proposed developments and other building projects-None
- d. Invasive plant control- Nothing was discussed
- e. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

C. Day noted that GZA consultants are almost finished. She is submitting new photos of Branford to them soon. They are close to the deadline.

f. Branford Festival-Nothing was discussed

g. Earth Day- Nothing was discussed

h. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

K. Lee Hall gave a brief review of this item. There is a study ongoing For Rt. 146. She sits on the committee for this. She will keep the commission informed as things progress.

i. Farm River Coalition

Chairperson Wells Sweeney attended a public meeting regarding This and noted there were several people and they were supportive. She went into a bit more detail on that for the commission. She will keep the commission up to date on the progress.

C. Reports:

- a. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition-Nothing to discuss
- b. Library books donations
The librarians will let us know there book recommendations.
- c. Spill reports- None
- d. Contaminated sites- None
- e. Coastal Resiliency Plan- Nothing to discuss.
- f. Website- Nothing to discuss.

D. Other:

- a. Tweed Airport Expansion
K. Lee Hall noted there is nothing to report. She will keep the Commission informed of any new information.

E. Adjournment- Meeting ended at 8:28 pm.