

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

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BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1st, 2017
7:30 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER
11 CHERRY STREET, BRANFORD, CT

Present: Acting Chair Carol Kamuinsky, Bob Davis, Eleanor Saulys, Jonathan Katz, Karyl Lee Hall, Mike McGuinness and Dan FitzGerald

Absent: Chairman Karen Hannon, and Jim Yakimoff

Approval of Minutes: Comm. Davis motioned to approve the January 4th, 2017 minutes as amended (under Old Business add "Old Pine Orchard Rd on west side of river", under Jarvis Creek Project add "that affects salinity and water levels"). Comm. Katz seconded. Motion passed unanimously (7-0-0).

Correspondence and Announcements: Mail from Connecticut Conservation Conference and Aquarion.

Budget: fiscal year 2017 - year to date: No changes

New Business:

Comm. Hall stated that she has briefly reviewed some materials for the proposed solar farm at Ecology Park. It looks like the stormwater management proposal is ok and protection of the landfill cap was taken into account. The hill side will remain grass cover.

Comm. Hall presented to the Commission that on March 7th the Scenic Highway Committee will meet with DOT concerning the possible bridge replacement on 146 in Guilford.

Old Business:

Commission made note that Costco has made a statement that they do not plan to pursue development in Branford.

Continuing Business:

Permits for coastal projects – nothing

Proposed developments and other building projects

Atlantic Wharf- not sure where the project stands, pretty sure that the appeal is over

Invasive plant control – nothing

ICLEI-Greenhouse gases inventory – nothing

Jarvis Creek Project – nothing

Reports:

Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

At meeting on the 15th, assessment of desirability for acquisition was started for Lasko properties on Red Hill Rd and Thimble Island Rd which may come on the market.

Library books donations

Comm. Kaminsky stated all books have been ordered and received except for one. Books have been delivered to Marry Murphy School and she will get the rest of the donated books out tomorrow. She has been placing Conservation Commission stickers in the front of the books and is almost out. Comm. Katz motioned to get more stickers and Comm. McGuinness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Spill reports

Comm. McGuinness presented the spill reports:

Jan 18 – drums abandoned at 225 N. Main St

Jan 25 – I95N exit 54 gallon of gasoline due to hose failure

Jan 30 – diesel fuel tank removed no evidence of leakage (117 N Main)

Jan 26 – gasoline tank removed at 117 N Main

Jan 5 – trailer truck roll over on 95, no leaks

Feb 16 – chemical in drains set off alarm at high school

Contaminated sites – nothing

Coastal Resiliency Plan – nothing

Website – nothing

Branford Festival – nothing

Other:**Branford Festival**

Comm. Carol stated that she has requested that the Commission have their own table (separate from the Community Forest Commission) and that their table is located next to the Land Trust. Comm. Fitzgerald recommended having information on bees available. Commission discussed Mason Bee Houses. Comm. Hall stated she will look into getting information on Stony Creek bats.

Rid Litter Day

Commission discussed request to purchase materials such as trash bags and gloves for the Rid Litter Day event. It was decided that the Department of Public Works should be asked to supply trash bags first. The Commission determined that they needed more information and can discuss at the April meeting.

Natural Planting around Town

Comm. Kaminsky stated that the Old Pine Orchard site did get approval for the planting project that Shirley McCarthy presented to the Commission. Comm. Saulys will be visiting the sites with the Environmental Director, Diana Ross to establish a mowing regime.

Adjournment: Comm. Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:12, Comm. Saulys seconded. Motion passed unanimously (7-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted

Jaymie Frederick, Board Clerk