

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

***REVISED MINUTES***

***WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
7:30 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER  
11 CHERRY STREET, BRANFORD, CT***

Present: Chairman Karen Hannon, Carol Kaminsky, Eleanor Saulys, Mike McGuinness, Dan FitzGerald, Karyl Lee Hall

Absent: Bob Davis and James Yakimoff

1. Approval of Minutes: Comm. Kaminsky motioned to approve the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 minutes, Comm. McGuinness seconded. Motion passed (4-0-2), Comm. Hall and Saulys abstained due to absence.
2. Correspondence and Announcements:
  - A. CT Audubon Society, State of the Birds
  - B. Schedule 2019 – Reviewed draft schedule, determined to meet the second Wed. in January. Schedule will be revised, posted in Town Clerk’s office and distributed
3. New Business: none
4. Budget: Fiscal year 2019 - year to date: Chairman Hannon will speak with finance department prior to next meeting at which the Commission can look at how to spend funds.
5. Continuing Business:
  - A. Permits for coastal projects: nothing new
  - B. Proposed developments and other building projects: Sterling Ridge project is before zoning for modification
  - C. Invasive plant control: nothing new
  - D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023): no action taken
  - E. Branford Festival: nothing
  - F. Animal Ordinance: Comm. FitzGerald reported that he drafted some revised language relating to leash or voice control, he will send it out to Commissioners to review for discussion at the next meeting. Commission discussed whether ordinance should also address cats. Comm. Hall suggested that they take one step at a time. Commission discussed need to educate people to be responsible pet owners.
  - G. Comm. Kaminsky motioned to add discussion on clean up day to the agenda. Comm. FitzGerald stated he is working with Dan McGowan and Becca again on next year’s event. He will have a date for the event at the next meeting.

6. Reports:

- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition: no meeting was held
- B. Library books donations: Comm. Kaminsky has ordered all of the books and received all except for two. Books will be delivered by the next meeting. Total for all books purchased was \$248.24.
- C. Spill reports:
  - i. Oct. – Travel Center of America, diesel spill, ~70 gallons
  - ii. Oct. – 195 north between exit 53 & 54, overfill spill
  - iii. Nov. 9 – 185 Damascus Rd, petroleum spill, hydraulic hose failure
  - iv. Nov. 12 – Thimble Island Rd, transformer equipment failure
  - v. Nov. 13 – 51 Mill Plain Rd, unknown release, heavy suds on river
    - 1. Comm. Saulys stated this could have been caused by natural causes
  - vi. Nov. 16 – 17 Heritage Hill Rd, chemical spill, 0.3 gallons, cleaned and aired out
- D. Contaminated sites: nothing
- E. Coastal Resiliency Plan: Comm. Saulys stated that the keynote speaker at the CACIWC meeting was excellent, could be a good speaker for a joint presentation with the Branford Land Trust in the spring.
- F. Website: Chairman Hannon stated they are still in the picture gathering process. Comm. Hall spoke in favor of getting the website going regardless of whether pictures were assembled. Commission discussed looking into adding links to notable tree stories if possible and putting the scenic tree inventory on the website.

7. Other:

- A. Open space – consider writing letter of support:

Comm. FitzGerald discussed progression of movement to rebrand open space area around Supply Ponds to encourage recreational use on foot and bicycles. Work is being done to improve the trail networks. Some trail crossings will need to be done through wetland areas, working with Bill Horne and the wetlands department to organize that. It is his understanding that Parks and Open Space will be conducting the trail improvements beyond what can be done with volunteer work. Comm. FitzGerald requested a motion to re-designate land around Supply Ponds as Pisgah Brook Preserve. Comm. Hall motioned and Comm. Kaminsky seconded. Motion passed (5-0-1), Comm. Saulys voting against. Comm. FitzGerald requested motion to support the continuation of the green trail down to the Supply Pond area which would include three wetland crossings. Comm. Hall motioned, Comm. Kaminsky seconded. Motion passed (5-0-1), Comm. Saulys voting against.

- 8. Adjournment: Comm. Kaminsky motioned to adjourn at 8:53pm, Comm. Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Jaymie Frederick