

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

SPECIAL MEETING- MINUTES – REVISED

WEDNESDAY, February 10, 2021

7:30 P.M.

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

Commissioners Present: Chairman Dan Fitzgerald, Karen Hannon, Karyl Lee Hall,
Patrick Sweeney, Adrian Bonenberger, Christie Day (joined
The meeting at 8:20 pm.
Peter Yates arrived late also.

Commissioners Absent: Carol Kaminsky

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. December 2, 2020 meeting minutes

A. Bonenberger made a motion to approve the 12-2-20 meeting minutes as written.

Chairman Fitzgerald seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. January 6, 2021

A. Bonenberger made a motion to approve the 1-6-21 meeting minutes as written. P. Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

None.

3. New Business:

None.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Fitzgerald reminded the Commission that they previously approved \$500 be used to purchase plastic sheeting to help with invasive control. The Finance Dept. asked for a screen shot of the item and they will order it .

P. Sweeney volunteered to take a screen shot and send to Chairman Fitzgerald. Chairman Fitzgerald then reviewed other budget items such as memberships and the purchase of some tools for future invasive clearing. They reviewed the tools that they want to purchase and Chairman Fitzgerald suggested starting a wish list for future purchases.

Chairman Fitzgerald made a motion to purchase up to \$500.00 in tools.
Karyl Lee Hall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

None

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

A new Aldi supermarket and Chase bank are coming to the parcel across the street from the end of Exit 53.

C. Invasive plant control

P.Sweeney has a list of speakers that are willing to come and speak to the Commission. He briefly reviewed the list. He asked the Commission for any other ideas for speakers.

A. Bonenberger suggested filming short instructional videos and then posting them to the website with his wife's assistance.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Chairman Fitzgerald displayed a task list the Commission needs to do in order to finish this inventory.

The Commission agreed that professionals should be working with them as well.

E. Branford Festival

No news to discuss.

F. Animal Ordinance

K. Hannon said she researched other towns and looked at different Vets Society as well. She is composing a document for the website. She will forward to the Chairman for posting when it's done.

Chairman Fitzgerald suggested more discussion on this topic at the March meeting.

G. Pollinator Pathway

K. Hannon spoke to a woman from Hotchkiss Grove who is interested in this program and would like to educate others in the Hotchkiss Grove neighborhood. She asked for information for their newsletter.

C. Day said she spoke with the president of the Garden Club as they are interested to get more information as well and she will be in further communication with them.

C. Day also spoke of plans for planting a garden in the Learning Center this summer and perhaps do some planting in the early fall.

H. Earth Day

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that the Commission will assist but the event will be primarily handled by the Renewable Energy group in Branford.

I. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

Chairman Fitzgerald said he sent a letter regarding this bridge that was composed by Karyl Lee Hall. He briefly reviewed what it said.

Karyl Lee Hall noted the project is on hold pending a SCRCG (South CT Regional Council of Governments) Study. The reason for the study is because residents were concerned and requested it. She mentioned she would keep an eye on this item and would be speaking at an upcoming meeting. Chairman Fitzgerald said if that meeting is recorded, he would post it to the website.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Chairman Fitzgerald briefly spoke of the Medlin Farm property and noted he had no new information.

B. Library books donations

Nothing new to discuss.

C. Spill reports

Chairman Fitzgerald noted he would speak with P. Yates regarding these. (Peter is absent for this meeting).

D. Contaminated sites

None to discuss

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan

More information to come

F. Website

Chairman Fitzgerald said he has been working on this. He asked the Commission for input as to what to post to the website to educate the public. He spoke of some of his ideas of things to post.

He suggested perhaps purchasing wood and donating it to a local school and ask them to build some bathhouses.

7. Other:

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.