

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

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

TUESDAY, February 15, 2022
7:30 P.M.

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

Commissioners Present: D. Fitzgerald, K. Lee-Hall, A. Bonenberger, C. Day, C. Jasek,
P. Sweeney, H.Wells –Sweeney, C. Kaminsky

Commissioners Absent: K. Hannon

1. Current State-Focus and Budget:

Chairman Fitzgerald reviewed the agenda and the items on it and spoke of the ongoing plans for each item and the Commissioners also gave their thoughts. Chairman Fitzgerald displayed an excel sheet with the items listed and asked the commission who would be willing to help with each item.

The clerk (Michelle Martin) will contact DEEP and ask to be the contact person for permits for coastal projects and spill reports and contaminated sites. She will also continue to inform the commission of any proposed developments and other building projects.

The commission discussed invasive plant control and several members volunteered.

The Natural Resource Inventory was discussed and the commission agreed that this is a daunting task and outside help is needed. They will hire someone to assist them. Funds will be set outside to pay for this.

The commission discussed the Pollinator Pathway project and no one could commit to lead this but many members said they would be willing to help out.

The Branford Festival is uncertain at this point. More information will follow as it becomes available. Wells- Sweeney has many ideas and will be glad to help. She mentioned maybe using some of her ideas for Arbor Day.

K. Lee-Hall asked that the Crabbing Bridge item remain on the agenda. She is following this closely. She will keep the commission up to date on any developments.

The commission briefly discussed the possible expansion of Tweed Airport in New Haven and what that may mean. The commission decided to add this as a new item to the agenda.

C. Kaminsky offered to continue her library book donations as she has done for many years.

A few of the commissioners are still working on the website. That will be ongoing as the commission continues their work. They talked of posting volunteer dates to the website so the public can be aware and help out.

Chairman Fitzgerald then reviewed the budget saying there are still funds available for saplings, plants, tools, etc.

2. On-going Initiatives;

This was part of the discussion above.

3. Leadership Voting :

Chairman Fitzgerald then opened the floor for anyone who is interested in taking over his role as Chairman. He noted he will be staying on the commission until June.

The commissioners gave their thoughts and no one fully committed but they all said they would volunteer and help out as much as they could.

The commission did not vote for a new Chairperson but decided to give it more thought. They discussed perhaps having co-chairs.

Chairman Fitzgerald said he will still chair the meeting in March and it can be discussed further then.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Martin (clerk)