

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, February 2, 2022

7:30 P.M.

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

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

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. January 5, 2022 meeting minutes

P. Sweeney made a motion to approve the January 2, 2022 meeting minutes as written.

C. Day seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Fitzgerald announced that he would be leaving his position of Chairman since he is moving. He said he will try to stay on as the Chair until June so the Commission will have time to choose a new chair. He thanked the Commissioners for all their hard work and said it has been great working with them. The Commissioners in turn thanked him for his leadership and the hard work he has put in.

Chairman Fitzgerald suggested having a Special Meeting to discuss the future of the various projects and who would step in as the new Chairperson.

3. New Business: Nothing was discussed.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that he is trying to get the shed moved to the Early Learning center.

He spoke of using some funds to possibly purchase some saplings for distribution. He said there is between \$3,000 and \$4,000 available in the budget for plants. He noted that giving the plants away follows the Commission's Mission to get more native plants planted in Branford.

He said the Commission can purchase the plants now and then have them shipped at a later date.

Then the Commission discussed Earth day, saying in the past the town has provided a few tables for them to use and they have a tent. There is also a dumpster there for the trash that the volunteers collect. C. Kaminsky suggested maybe the Garden Club may want to participate as well.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects--None

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

A new Amazon warehouse application has been received by the Planning & Zoning Dept. A public hearing is set for February 3, 2022 via zoom. The zoom link is on the agenda which is on the town website.

A new residential development for ages 55+ at 61 Burban Drive is also being reviewed. The discussion of this project will continue at the February 3, 2022 Planning & Zoning meeting.

C. Invasive plant control

P. Sweeney noted that Lauren Brown is present at the meeting. He said the idea is to form a small core group to tackle invasive plants before they get out of control. Lauren spoke and asked the Commission to consider joining the land trust in their Invasive plant removal efforts. She mentioned the areas that they want to work on.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

P. Sweeney noted that he knows of someone that may be interested in assisting the Commission with this. He will contact the person and update the Commission at a future meeting.

E. Branford Festival- Nothing was discussed at the meeting.

F. Pollinator Pathway

C. Day volunteered to secure a speaker for the March or April meeting. An idea she had was to have a speaker that can advise them of the next steps to take. How to keep the invasives at bay while the native plants are growing. She will secure the speaker and get the publicity out. .

G. Earth Day

H. Wells Sweeney asked about past Earth Day activities. She would like a list of trees that are smaller that can be planted under power lines.

H. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

K. Lee-Hall said she is waiting for the comprehensive evaluation of the road to be completed before the bridge work can begin.

6. Reports:

- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- They have not met yet.
- B. Library books donations – Complete until the fall.
- C. Spill reports- None
- D. Contaminated sites - None
- E. Coastal Resiliency Plan- None
- F. Website

C. Kaminsky said P. Sweeney had some good comments. She will get in touch with the IT dept. for assistance.

7. Other:

D. Fitzgerald talked of new leadership for the Commission and asked for volunteers to chair. The Commission discussed this briefly and K. Lee-Hall suggested having a Special meeting (mandatory) to discuss this further since it is very important.

D. Fitzgerald will be in touch with the clerk to coordinate a special meeting maybe next week.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Martin (Clerk)

8. Adjournment