

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 2018
7:30 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER
11 CHERRY STREET, BRANFORD, CT

RECEIVED
2018 JAN 10 P 3:08
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Present: Chairman Karen Hannon, Carol Kaminsky, Karyl Lee Hall, Dan FitzGerald, Bob Davis and Eleanor Saulys arrived late (around 7:43)

Absent: Mike McGuinness and Jim Yakimoff

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Kaminsky motioned to approve the October 4, 2017 minutes with changes (correct Joe-pye weed and Saint John's Wort on page 2); Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion passed (3-0-2); Commissioners Hall and FitzGerald abstained due to absence.
2. **Correspondence and Announcements:** none
3. **Budget:** Chairman Hannon stated that Paul Blackstone will do some management/maintenance work with carry over funds at Montowese park and behind Pine Orchard School. Commission will need to plan how to spend this year's maintenance funds.

Comm. Saulys arrived late, around 7:43pm

4. **Continuing Business:**
 - A. **Permits for coastal projects:** nothing
 - B. **Proposed developments and other building projects:** nothing
 - C. **Invasive plant control:** Chairman Hannon recapped that work will be done at S. Montowese park and behind Pine Orchard school. Commissioner Kaminsky reported that seeds were spread along the edge of the field off Old Pine Orchard Rd. Commission discussed the maintenance of this site; Chairman will draft a letter for the next meeting addressed to DPW requesting that mowing be reduced to once a year in late Sept/Oct for at least three years at which point the success can be assessed by the Commission. Commission discussed continuing to spread local milkweed but not purchasing seed mix that may influence local plant genetics.
 - D. **Natural Resource Inventory:** Commission discussed that the next update is due 2023; however, they will need to get someone else to do the work. Suggestions to follow up on include Oswald Schmitz (Yale), Shimon Anisfeld (Yale) and Roman Zajac (University of New Haven). Commission also discussed status of tracking open space and how to define open space. Commissioner Hall will look into any state level definition of open space.
 - E. **Branford Festival:** Commissioner Saulys stated she could collect invasives to display again. Commissioner FitzGerald suggested having information on local edible plants and holding a photo contest. Commission will need to think of a theme for the contest. Discussed the contest could be promoted on the website.

5. **Reports:**

- A. **Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition:** this group will only meet on every other (even) month now
- B. **Library books donations:** Commissioner Kaminsky reported that she has received books for the High school, Walsh and Sliney and hopes to deliver them Friday. So far the total bill is \$147.02. She still needs requests from the other schools.
- C. **Spill reports:** nothing
- D. **Contaminated sites:** nothing
- E. **Coastal Resiliency Plan:** nothing
- F. **Website:** Chairman Hannon reported that she has met with Jenn several times and will try to meet with her again this month.

6. **Other:**

- A. **Plan of Conservation and Development Comments:** Commission discussed the issue of sea level rise and the need to conserve existing salt marsh and reduce development near marshes so that they can expand/develop where appropriate. Raised the question as to whether offshore renewable energy options have been looked at.
- B. Commissioner Hall presented a concern raised by the BCRD relative to a request to change the zoning regulations to allow extensions to PDD plans for an infinite amount of time. She would like to speak at the Zoning meeting on behalf of the Commission opposing this change. Commissioner Davis motioned to give Commissioner Hall authority, Commissioner Saulys seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm; Commissioner Kaminsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Jaymie Frederick, Board Clerk