

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

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, March 1, 2023

Branford Community Center, 30-48 Church St.

7:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Heather Wells-Sweeney, Karyl Lee Hall, Neil Goodard, Christie Day (arrived at 8:14), Carol Kaminsky, Adrian Bonenberger
Patrick Sweeney

Commissioners Absent: Cyde Jasek, Karen Hannon,

1. Burban Drive- (Potential Development)

Bill Horne spoke of the proposed residential project at Burban Drive. It is the site of the former church. He noted that no action will be taken at the March 2 Planning & Zoning meeting. This is the developer explaining his proposed idea and getting the commissions opinion about it.

The commission discussed this and decided to send a letter into the Planning & Zoning Dept. to state their concerns.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. February 1, 2023

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney noted two minor changes and C. Kaminsky noted an error.

N. Goodard made a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

J. Greenberg seconded the motion which passed.

K. Hannon abstained.

3. Pollinator Pathway

Nothing was discussed.

4. Correspondence and Announcements

Nothing was discussed.

5. New Business:

Chairperson Wells Sweeney noted that the April Meeting should be changed since it is Passover. She suggested moving it to the next week which is April 12. Neil Goodard made a motion to change the April meeting to April 12.

C. Day opposed.

P.Sweeney seconded the motion which passed.

6. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairperson Wells –Sweeney noted that the metal medallions that were discussed and purchased for the pollinator pathway are on their way. However, they did not consider the metal stakes and fasteners needed to be purchased to install them. The cost is \$25.00 for the fasteners and stakes.

P. Sweeney made a motion to purchase the stakes and fasteners for 25.00.

N. Goodard seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

She then noted that she is attending the Ct Land Conservation Council Seminar and discussed it .The group debated on whether to join this group.

J. Greenberg made a motion to join it at a cost of \$100.00.

K. Hannon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The group then talked of the author Doug Towney ,who wrote “Bringing Nature Home” . He started this movement which he hopes will gain traction called “homegrown national park” . Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney would like to add signs at their sites that state they are a member of this . She talked of various signs and asked the group to think about it and it can be discussed later.The idea is similar to the pollinator pathway.

Chairperson Wells Sweeney said she would like to purchase plants for the empty space next to the EV Charging Ports. The commission had previously planted plugs there and she moved some of the plugs that were planted there. The commission discussed it briefly and the item was tabled.

She then spoke of other memberships and the cost of each:

Ct Audubon Society (\$165.00 in 2019)

Native Plant Trust - \$150.00 contribution (previously New England Wildflower Society)

Save the Sound – (Individual membership is 20.00)

Wild Ones (this is the group we have bought native plants at CT College)

The commission discussed these and decided to donate \$100.00 to Save the Sound.

N. Goodard made a motion to donate 100.00 to CT Land Conservation Council
100.00 to CT Audubon Society
150.00 Native Plan Trust
100.00 Wild Ones
100.00 Save the Sound

C. Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The commission discussed whether to give away trees on Earth Day or not.

They decided to not distribute them in April, perhaps in the fall.
They then discussed different ideas of what to give away for Earth Day . More information to follow.

Chairperson H. Wells-Sweeney noted that the photo contest at the school is progressing and she will keep the group updated.

The next item discussed was the purchase of an overlay for the table for the commission's booth. This would go on top of the tablecloth and have the official town seal printed on it.

Tyco's estimate for an overlay is \$150.00.

C. Kaminsky made a motion to purchase it but not in excess of \$200.00

D. Day seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

E. Continuing Business:

- a. Permits for coastal projects—Nothing was discussed.
- b. Proposed developments and other building projects- Nothing was discussed.
- c. Invasive plant control – Nothing was discussed.
- d. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

C.Day said the proposals are due March 7, 2023. She said a few people she contacted changed their mind when they heard the budget amount. She reached out to a larger company and they suggested the commission do a “Story Map’ and they may be able to accommodate us for \$15,000. She suggested waiting until after March 7 to see how many bids are received. Then, they discussed either raising the budget or do a storymap. She said perhaps the engineering dept. could assist with this.
The commission discussed this and it will be taken up again at the April meeting.

Chairperson H. Wells –Sweeney said she met with the Finance Dept. and First Selectman Jaime Cosgrove and gave them an update of the Natural Resource Inventory.

- e. Branford Festival- Nothing was discussed.
- f. Earth Day- Nothing was discussed.
- g. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford) – Nothing was discussed.

F. Reports:

- a. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- b. Library books donations

C.Kaminsky gave a brief update. She said the total for each elementary school book donations was \$65.35 with a grand total spent of \$371.11. She said she will ask the school librarians again if they would be interested in getting any magazine subscriptions.

- c. Spill reports- Nothing was discussed.
- d. Contaminated sites - Nothing was discussed.
- e. Coastal Resiliency Plan- Nothing was discussed.
- f. Website- Nothing was discussed.

G. Other:

- a. Tweed Airport Expansion
Karyl Lee Hall gave a brief overview of this, which she has given us a prior meetings.

H. Adjournment