

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, March 3, 2021

7:30 P.M.

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

Commissioners Present: Chairman D. Fitzgerald, P. Sweeney, C. Kaminsky, K.Hannon,
A.Bonenberger, P. Yates, C. Day (arrived at 8:01)

Commissioners Absent: K. Lee Hall

Chairman Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. February 10, 2021 meeting minutes
 - A.Bonenberger made a motion to approve the 2-10-21 meeting minutes.
 - C. Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
2. Correspondence and Announcements
None.
3. New Business:
Nothing new was discussed.
4. Budget:
 - A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date
Chairman D. Fitzgerald displayed the current financial information and he reviewed each budgeted line item.
He then suggested purchasing additional tools to use to address the invasive plants.
The Commission discussed this briefly and agreed that additional items should be purchased up to \$500.00.
Chairman D. Fitzgerald made a motion to purchase tools and equipment up to \$500.00.
A.Bonenberger seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
5. Continuing Business:
 - A. Permits for coastal projects
No new permits were discussed.
 - B. Proposed developments and other building projects
The Goodsell Point new development.
 - C. Invasive plant control
P. Sweeney noted he has not yet followed up with potential speakers that would address this topic. He will have more information for the Commission at a future meeting.
 - D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Chairman Fitzgerald said perhaps the CT Audubon Society can assist the Commission with a bird count.

E. Branford Festival

Chairman Fitzgerald suggested possibly buying some wood and asking the local schools to build bird or bat houses and they can be raffled or given away at the Festival. The Commission discussed this briefly and decided next year would be a better time to do that.

F. Animal Ordinance

Chairman Fitzgerald and K. Hannon met and drafted possible changes to the ordinance as well as a media statement. More information on this will follow.

A. Bonenberger left the meeting at 7:59 pm.

G. Pollinator Pathway

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that Guilford has a few things planned for May. He will give more information at the future meeting.

C. Day said she spoke with Kathy Connelly (Landscape Designer) and she is available for a zoom presentation on March 30 for an hour for a fee of 250.00.

The Commission discussed this and agreed this was a good idea for the Pollinator Pathway kickoff.

She then talked about the yard signs and that they may be a good idea to inform the public of the work that the Conservation Commission is doing. They could be posted at the spots where the Commission is removing invasives.

H. Earth Day

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that Diana from Town Hall is working on some ideas. He will report more information to the Commission at a future meeting.

I. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

Nothing new was discussed.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Chairman Fitzgerald said he is planning on attending a future meeting as a representative of this Commission. He will have more information for the next meeting.

B. Library books donations

C. Kaminsky said this year is complete. There is nothing more to do until the fall.

D. Spill reports

P. Yates reported the last spill was in mid-December at the truck stop at exit 56.

E. Contaminated sites

P. Yates said he drove by the Atlantic Wire site and noted all the seeds were gone. No one really knows what's in the site, mostly dust, it seems.

More information may follow.

F. Coastal Resiliency Plan

Chairman Fitzgerald said there are no updates to report and he hopes for a future speaker for this topic.

G. Website

Chairman Fitzgerald asked for more ideas from the Commissioners as to the items that can be posted to the website.

7. Other:

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.