

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

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, April 13, 2022

7:30 P.M.

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

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83853505437?pwd=dzU3MWVZbGJaNW5uWWswNzA1V2Jqdz09>

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

Commissioners Absent: A. Bonenberger, K. Hannon

1. Approval of Minutes:

A. March 2 ,2022 meeting minutes

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that since this is a special meeting, minutes should not be voted on.

He also noted this would be his last meeting as an official member but he plans on attending meetings in the future.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

3. New Business:

This New Business was discussed after the budget.

K. Lee-Hall spoke briefly regarding the proposed extension of the runway at Tweed Airport. She said she is in the flight path and noted that some people in Short Beach are upset about the noise.

She said she attended a meeting in New Haven and the people that are opposed to the expansion voiced their concerns: such as the impact on inland wetlands, Bird migration, among others. This will need an environmental review.

She suggested obtaining information from the "Save the Sound" group and post it our website. Then residents will have access to information as to what's happening.

She will have more information at the next meeting.

The Commission would like to have this topic added to future agendas.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that he and H. Wells-Sweeney attended the Finance and Ways and Means meeting and he presented the budget to them. They also met with Jim Finch (Finance Dept.) to talk about the Natural Resource Inventory. He explained that the Commission is not exactly sure how much money is needed to complete the inventory but that 10,000 is the minimum needed.

Chairman Fitzgerald then reviewed the budget briefly. He noted that 700 trees will be arriving for the Earth Day giveaway. It is a mixture of a few type of trees and the total was \$1,762.00.

H. Wells Sweeney asked if there are any current bills due (contributions or membership dues. M. Martin (clerk) will check on that. There will be more information at the next meeting.

P. Sweeney suggested perhaps buying some seeds. He heard there may be a seed shortage. This can be discussed more at the next meeting.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

None to report.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects-

The Buckley Road residential project is still being reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Anyone is invited to attend. The meetings are held the first and third Thursday at the Fire Headquarters at 7pm.

C. Invasive plant control –

P. Sweeney said he is working with Bill Horne at the Todd's Hill property. It is an 800 square foot area .He is trying to get permission for the plant removal there. More information will follow.

He also noted he is part of a Native Plant Protection Group and they sent emails out to The Pollinator Pathway Group and the Land Trust. The group will go out and work in various areas of town periodically over the summer. He is working with Lauren Brown.

C.Day mentioned various sites around town that they will work on and also check on the Early Learning Center and Anderson Lookout. She noted they will need volunteers to help.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

D.Fitzgerald said he has been trying to get more information from Guilford with no luck. H. Wells –Sweeney will take over this task.

P. Sweeney talked to Laura Greene and sent her a link to view the last inventory that was done. She felt she could handle the task. She has GIS background but noted she could not inventory the vernal pools.

K. Lee-Hall noted that someone could subcontract other people to assist. She said she has spoken to Bill Horne and he made some suggestions of people that may be able to assist with this.

The commission discussed this briefly and said they will review Guilford's inventory as well.

H. Wells –Sweeney suggested forming a subcommittee to work on this and asked for volunteers. This item is continued to the next meeting.

E. Branford Festival

P. Sweeney said the Chamber of Commerce is handling the booths. D. Fitzgerald will try to get more information. Their booth should be next to other environment groups.

P. Sweeney left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

H. Wells –Sweeney noted that the Branford Cultural Arts & Alliance wants to add artists at the festival this year. She said she would like to incorporate art in their booth as well. She has some ideas and this can be discussed more. She would like to distribute seedlings at the festival. D. Fitzgerald said they have dealt with Nature works before and they can get a discount.

F. Pollinator Pathway

G. Earth Day

H. Wells -Sweeney said there are other groups joining this year and it's a good cleanup day for Branford. She said the theme is "Spring into Action". She suggested sending an email to Branford Businesses asking them to Help with the cleanup efforts around their businesses.

I. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

K.Lee-Hall said there may be a revised plan for the bridge. She was invited as a Scenic Road Committee member to participate in a review of Rt. 146. She will have more information at future meetings.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- Nothing to discuss.

B. Library books donations – Nothing to discuss.

C. Spill reports-34 Rogers Rd- a gasoline spill.

D. Contaminated sites - Nothing to discuss.

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan—Nothing new to discuss.

F. Website

H.Wells-Sweeney said she sent a few comments to C. Kaminsky who's is still working on them. More info to follow.

7. Other:

A. Vote for new Chairperson-

D. Fitzgerald abstained. The Commission thanked D. Fitzgerald for all his hard work and leadership. He will be missed.

C.Kaminsky nominated H.Wells-Sweeney for Chairperson.

K. Lee-Hall seconded the nomination which passed 4-0.

8. Adjournment ---The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.