

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, April 7, 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, K. Lee Hall,
A. Bonenberger, C. Kaminsky, C. Day (joined by phone at 7:56)

Commissioners Absent: P. Yates, K. Hannon
Chairman Fitzgerald called meeting to order at 7:46

1. Approval of Minutes:

- A. March 3, 2021 meeting minutes
C. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the 3-3-21 meeting minutes.
P. Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- B. March 11, 2021 meeting minutes
P. Sweeney made a motion to approve the 3-11-21 meeting minutes.
C. Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- C. March 30, 2021 meeting minutes
P. Sweeney made a motion to approve the 3-30-21 meeting minutes.
A. Bonenberger seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

It was noted there was a lot of positive feedback from the prior speaker, Kathy Connolly (Landscape Designer) who spoke at the 3-30-21 Special Meeting.

Chairman Fitzgerald noted Earth Day is coming up on 4-22-21 with more information to follow.

3. New Business:

Nothing was discussed.

4. Budget:

- A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date
Chairman Fitzgerald reviewed what supplies the Commission had purchased to date. He then reviewed each item on the budget sheet. They then discussed what future purchases would be made and the amount of them. The Commission decided to purchase a 10x10 wind resistant tent with a maximum limit of \$1,000.
K. Lee Hall made a motion to purchase it.

P. Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

C. Day joined by phone at 7:56 pm.

K. Lee Hall left the meeting at 7:57 pm.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

None

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

None. Chairman Fitzgerald will check with Jaymie Frederick(Inland Wetlands Director)

C. Invasive plant control

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that the Greenway Trail Committee would like to assist in the efforts to remove some of the invasive plants around town.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Chairman Fitzgerald asked the Commissioners if anyone would like to assist with this. He has someone who has volunteered to help out. He will provide an update at the next meeting.

E. Branford Festival

Chairman Fitzgerald said the festival has been cancelled for this year.

F. Animal Ordinance

K. Hannon was not present to give an update on this item.

G. Pollinator Pathway

C. Day spoke and noted there was great participation from everyone at the Special Meeting where Kathy Connolly spoke. She said she received a lot of volunteers for the upcoming Saturday clean-up day.

P. Sweeney said he secured a speaker (David Gumbart, Director of Land Management for the Nature /Conservancy) for an upcoming meeting. He noted that Habitat Management is his specialty and he was a prior Inland Wetland Commissioner for Branford. He is also willing to speak for no fee. P. Sweeney will set up a date for the speaker.

H. Earth Day

Diana McCarthy (Town Hall employee) is organizing it.

Chairman Fitzgerald asked the Commission to assist in giving out white oak tree samplings on Earth Day. He would like to purchase them (up to \$1,000) and discussed this with the Commission.

The Commission agreed to the purchase (up to \$1,000) and discussed a few options of where they could be planted.

P. Sweeney made a motion to approve up to \$1,000 to be spent on trees to be given away on Earth Day.

C. Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

I. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

There is no new information. A public meeting will be held in the near future. More info to follow.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

Chairman Fitzgerald said he mentioned 2 properties at the meeting: one is across the street from Tommy Sullivan's and the other is next door to the Day Spa. He also noted the Medlan's Farm is being purchased by the Branford Land Trust and the Town may assist with it.

B. Library books donations

Nothing to discuss

C. Spill reports

None

D. Contaminated sites

None

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan

Chairman Fitzgerald said he will have more information at upcoming meetings.

F. Website

Chairman Fitzgerald is talking to the IT Dept. His goal is to put the Pollinator Pathway information on the website.

7. Other:

C. Day said she will send out a blanket email to advertise the Saturday Invasive Plant Removal events. She hopes this will encourage more people to attend. She suggested adding this information to the website as well. The Commission agreed this was a good idea.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.