

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

***SPECIAL MEETING***

***MINUTES***

**THURSDAY MAY 25, 2023**

**Branford Community Center, 30-48 Church St., Room B**

**6:30 P.M.**

**or via Zoom with the link below if unable to attend.**

Commissioners Present: Heather Wells-Sweeney, Christie Day, Neil Goodard, Joshua Greenberg, Carol Kaminsky, Cynde Jasek, Patrick Sweeney.  
Commissioners Absent: Adrian Bonenberger, Karyl Lee Hall

**1. Budget**

Chairperson Wells -Sweeney displayed the budget spreadsheet and noted that the Commission has funds available in the budget to spend on any supplies or services needed.

She mentioned that the person they hired to do the Vernal Pool Study doesn't have the necessary insurance to finish the study. She said she will pay her for the time she has put into the study.

She then reviewed some prior ideas that were discussed by the commission and The cost of any items needed.

Chairperson Wells - Sweeney then noted that she would like to use some of the available funds to plant a few trees on town property. Another idea she had was to put signage at the pollinator pathways meadow (Large sheets of metal with Printing).

Neil Goodard spoke of a person he met with at the Blackstone Library and he asked them for their wish list. He suggested maybe purchasing a few of those Items. He also mentioned that on June 24<sup>th</sup>, the library is having a volunteer Day. He suggested maybe the commission could have a table there. He will get more information.

The group then discussed the signage idea for the pollinator pathway. They then talked of perhaps hiring GZA to do a vernal pool study but then Decided the cost was too high.

Patrick Sweeney suggested compiling a detailed list of items the commission Would like to spend money on.

Chairperson Wells -Sweeney said she would like to have a meeting over the summer to discuss the commission's vision. What do they want to accomplish next year?

Cynde Jasek suggested planting some pollinator plants in the new garden by the First Baptist Church, which is town property and there could be a pollinator pathway medallion placed there along with native plants. The commission discussed the idea

and agreed on purchasing approximately 25 plants at a cost of about \$400.00.

The commission then talked of different signs and their cost.

Chairperson Wells-Sweeney mentioned another idea could be hiring a part time seasonal employee that would be hired thru the Town of Branford to plant some plants or weed.

The group briefly talked a bit about public education and how can they be the most effective in educating people on what they do.

The commission decided to move on these items:

**Patrick Sweeney made a motion to purchase 100 brochures at Tyco for the Branford Festival at a cost of \$400.00.**

**Cynde Jasek seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Carol Kaminsky made a motion to spend \$1,000 for plants for distribution at the Branford Festival.**

**Patrick Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Christie Day made a motion to purchase plants for the garden on the town green in the amount of \$400.00.**

**Carol Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Patrick Sweeney made a motion to spend up to \$500.00 for aluminum signage only. (The supports will be purchased later).**

**Cynde Jasek seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Patrick Sweeney said he will try to reach the Tree Warden regarding the trees. He will hopefully have more information at the next meeting.

## **2. Earth Day**

Chairperson Wells-Sweeney said this was a typo, this item should be The Branford Festival (June 17), not Earth Day (which was in April).

She said they have a 3 fold display which will be at the booth and it explains Invasive plants and suggests native plants people should plant instead.

There will also be brochures at the booth as well as the plants that they will distribute. She noted that the photo contest may be postponed till the fall. They did not get a lot of participation as they had originally hoped.

She reminded the Commission that the next meeting will be held on June 6 at 7:30 p.m.

## **3. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.