

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

MEETING

MINUTES- Revised

WEDNESDAY, May 3, 2023

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

7:30 P.M.

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

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

1. Approval of 3-1-23 & 4-12-23 minutes

**Carol Kaminsky made a motion to approve the 3-1-23 minutes.
Christie Day seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Carol Kaminsky made a motion to approve the 4-12-23 minutes.
Karyl Lee Hall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

2. Correspondence and Announcements- None

3. New Business:

- A. Neonics pesticide bill

Chairperson Heather Wells –Sweeney noted this bill has moved on to the Ct senate and more info will follow.

- B. Farm River Watershed

Chairperson Wells-Sweeney noted that there is a document online that was spearheaded by the South West conservation district that has general information on the Farm River. It's a very through document. She also noted that Save the Sound has begun a water study n that gives a report card on several rivers and waterways in CT and they give a report card on each one. She was surprised to learn that the Farm River is not clean and has many problems .

She then mentioned 61-65 Burban Drive and said they hope to have some green infrastructure there to address the stormwater runoff, which can cause problems. She is involved with a reading group and they will coordinate these efforts and she will report back with any information.

- C. Outreach

- D. Discussion of outreach, including social media and point person.

Chairperson Wells- Sweeney reached out to the person who is working on the vernal pool survey and the person said they did not estimate the time that will be needed to do this correctly. She said she would be happy to

continue next year and simply do the subset this year. She also asked the commission if they had any priorities regarding the study. The commission can email Chairperson Wells-Sweeney if they have any. She thinks she can put in 25 hours of work at 30 per hour. She will charge 750.00 for this year.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2023 - year to date

She then displayed the budget on the screen and reviewed each line.

She reviewed the money that was spent on Earth Day.

She asked the commission for ideas to spend the remaining funds available.

The commission discussed this briefly. Chairperson Wells-Sweeney suggested purchasing additional seeds and the group discussed this.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects- None

B. Proposed developments and other building projects—

An informal discussion was held at a planning & zoning meeting regarding a potential housing project planned for Commercial Pkwy.

C. Invasive plant control

Patrick Sweeney met with Lauren Brown and a few other volunteers to remove invasives on Gould Lane. They have another work day planned coming up on May 6 from 2 to 4 pm on the Flax Mill property.

D. Pollinator Pathway

Chairperson Wells –Sweeney noted a scout leader reached out to her after the festival last summer and she has been trying to set up a work day. She planned it for April 22 at the Early Learning Center. At the foot of the woods there, it is all mugwort so the idea was that the scouts would place cardboard there that they had been saving and then spread wood chips on top of that to smother the mugwort. She said she went to the site the day before and discovered that the public works dept. had done the work. So, she cancelled the scout work day since it was already done. She will try to set up another work day with the scouts.

She then mentioned that the First Selectman sent her an email in the fall that the third graders at Tisko School wanted to plant a pollinator garden at Riverside Park and they asked her to help them. So, she gave a presentation at their school explaining the different plants and what they need to grow. They also asked her to help with the garden design. She then got an email from the teacher with a garden design and also a list of plants they may use. Most of the plants were native. She will reply to the teacher soon. The date set for the planting is May 20 something. She invited the commission to attend if they like.

She also noted that Kelly Martens who visited the commission and attended a meeting a month or so ago is interested in taking on the Pollinator Pathway project and she is going to encourage her to join the commission.

E. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Christie Day is working on the purchase order to hire GZA consultants.

F. Earth Day

Chairperson Wells –Sweeney gave an update and noted the festival was fantastic. She thanked Christie and Joshua for their work. She noted the festival was great and many more exhibitors than last year participated.

G. Branford Festival

Chairperson Wells-Sweeney asked for help to put the booth together. She will send an email out to the group.

Carol Kaminsky said she spoke to nature works about purchasing plants for the festival . She will report back to the commission on what plants will be available to purchase.

H. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

Karyl Lee Hall reviewed that the DOT is doing a study on RT 146 and she is on that committee. She said there was a public meeting that's on bctv.. She will report back to the commission when she gets more information.

6. Reports:

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

B. Library books donations

Carol Kaminsky gave an update.

C. Spill reports--none

D. Contaminated sites - none

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan- nothing to report.

F. Website- nothing to report.

7. Other:

A. Tweed Airport Expansion

Karyl Lee Hall thanked the commission for letting her mail in the comment letter without them seeing it. She would like to post the letter to the website as well as send the letter to the commissioners.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm