

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

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, May 4, 2022

7:30 P.M.

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

Commissioners Present: A. Bonenberger, C. Kaminsky, C. Day, K.Lee-Hall, H. Wells -Sweeney,
P. Sweeney, K. Hannon, C. Jasek

1. Approval of Minutes:

- A. March 2 ,2022 meeting minutes
- B. April 13, 2022 meeting minutes

A. Bonenberger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 2, 2022 and April 13, 2022 as written.

C. Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

Chairperson H. Wells-Sweeney asked if it was time to renew any of our memberships such as the CT. Audubon Society, etc. The clerk M. Martin said she would look up the information from last year and have the information for a future meeting.

Chairperson H. Wells-Sweeney suggested joining the shoreline chamber of Commerce and the commission discussed this. They decided to wait before joining to gather more information about it.

3. New Business:

4. Budget:

- A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney asked the commission to think about any Other organizations they may wish to join and they can be discussed at a future meeting.

She then reviewed the many purchases she made for the Earth Day Celebration such as: soil, pots, id cards, supplies from Richlin, etc.

She also mentioned she purchased signs re: the invasive plant removal that had been previously discussed.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

K. Lee-Hall noted that Sam used to receive the notifications for permits for coastal projects. M. Martin (clerk) said she would try to contact someone at DEEP and ask them to email to her.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects

M. Martin (clerk) noted a residential project is before the planning & zoning Commission now for 61 Burban Drive. This was the old Hospice building.

C. Invasive plant control

Lauren Brown and P. Sweeney formed a group that is targeting small areas in town. They will meet that Friday on the Collin's property and Saturday they plan to meet at Youngs Pond. P. Sweeney noted he will schedule a few other dates during the summer.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

There was a small meeting last week that talked about items they wanted to add to the document. The group looked at the Guilford Natural Resource Inventory to get ideas. P. Sweeney noted that the CACIWC newsletter had some tips.

E. Branford Festival

Chairperson H. Wells-Sweeney noted that she is in the process of registering for it and it should be complete by the next meeting. She is looking for volunteers to set up and man the booth. She wants to give away native plants, using money that's available from the budget. She would like the focus of the table to be on native plants and how to plan them correctly. She asked the commission for other ideas.

F. Pollinator Pathway

C. Day gave a brief update saying there is two patches of land on Todd's Hill that is being worked on and hopefully will become a meadow. She is also checking in on the Early Learning Center.

P. Sweeney briefly explained how a patch of land becomes a meadow.

C. Day said she will send out communication in June for future work dates if anyone is interested in helping out.

C. Day stated that the shed would be very helpful at the Early Learning Center. H. Wells-Sweeney said that Jaime Cosgrove will help to see that the shed is moved there.

G. Earth Day

H.Wells- Sweeney said the Earth Day celebration was a grand success and learning experience. There were several booths on the green and the commission gave away tree seedlings and the total given away in two weekends was 438. She noted that the Garden Sale is May 14 and the rest of the trees seedlings will be given away then. She hopes that schools will take them and plant them.

She also said she spoke with Carolyn Sires (RTM member) about the problem of people dumping in the marsh. Perhaps down the road the commission can help with that issue.

H. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford) – No news to discuss.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition

H. Wells-Sweeney said there is nothing new to discuss.

B. Library books donations

Nothing new to report.

C. Spill reports

1. Hydraulic oil spill at mile post 78.24.
2. Petroleum spill at 569 East Main St.

D. Contaminated sites ---None

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan

Peter Hentshel (Coastal Resiliency Group) noted that there are opportunities for cooperation between the Conservation Commission, the Forest Commission and Inlands Wetlands Commission.

F. Website

H.Wells-Sweeney said it is still in progress. She is working on the edits. More info to follow.

7. Other:

A. Tweed Airport Expansion

The commission discussed this briefly and felt this issue affects the quality of life in Branford.

K. Lee-Hall said the "Save the Sound" group is against the expansion of The airport. More information to come at future meetings.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Submitted by:

M. Martin (Clerk)