

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, May 5, 2021

7:30 P.M.

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

Commissioners Present: Chairman D. Fitzgerald, C. Kaminsky, K. Hannon,
P. Sweeney, C. Jasek, C. Day, (K. Lee Hall & A. Bonenberger
joined at 7:45 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: P. Yates

Chairman Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 7:36 p.m. and welcomed Commissioner Cynde Jasek to the Commission.

Approval of Minutes:

A. April 7, 2021 meeting minutes

Comm. C. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the April 7 meeting minutes.
Comm. P. Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman D. Fitzgerald announced a new commission member, Cynde Jasek.
Cynde then introduced herself and gave a little background of her interests and notes she is a member of the Green Committee and loves plants and gardening.

Chairman Fitzgerald said the Audubon membership is due.
I said I received the Native Plants Programs magazine and will email it to the Commission asap.

3. New Business: Nothing was discussed.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2019 - year to date

Chairman Fitzgerald noted he found a tent for approximately \$800.00 as the Commission had previously discussed.

He then reviewed each line item of the budget.

He mentioned possibly purchasing a gps and camera for the Natural Resource inventory to start a catalog and document items. He also noted that the CT Audubon isn't responding to his request for a bird count. Karyl Lee Hall suggested mentioning that there is a financial incentive for their services. He then asked the Commissioners to submit their suggestions for tools and items to purchase and forward them to him.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects-None

B. Proposed developments and other building projects-Buckley Rd. There is a proposed open space residential development of 12 single family homes with common ownership.

C. Invasive plant control – P. Sweeney reminded the Commission of the upcoming speaker

(David Gumbart) planned for the Special Meeting on May 10, 2021.

- D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023) - Chairman Fitzgerald said he is trying to find people to assist with this task. He spoke of the idea of purchasing a camera and noted it may be helpful.
Comm. Karyl Lee suggested adding photos to the Natural Resource Inventory and said it would be a step forward,
 - E. Branford Festival- Chairman Fitzgerald said the festival has been cancelled for this year but suggested possibly placing all the green related committees near each other at next year's festival.
 - F. Animal Ordinance- Comm. K. Hannon provided a write up for a press release.
 - G. Pollinator Pathway-Comm. C. Day noted they have been working at the Early Learning Center the past few weekends and are making great progress. She said she has received many emails from people who would like to help. She suggested purchasing native plants from the upcoming Garden Club sale on May 15.
 - H. Earth Day- Nothing to discuss.
 - I. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford) Comm. Karyl Lee Hall noted the COG (Council of Government) wasn't doing a Rising Water Study. The legislature would do an independent study. This item is on hold until the study is completed.
She will report any new information received to the Commission.
6. Reports:
- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- This committee will meet May 2. The two items that will be discussed are the Medlan property and the pond next to Snake Hill Rd. These two properties have been recommended for purchase.
 - B. Library books donations – Nothing to discuss.
 - C. Spill reports
 - D. Contaminated sites - Chairman Fitzgerald will ask Comm. P. Yates for an update on this item and also spill reports. Comm. Yates is absent tonight.
 - E. Coastal Resiliency Plan- Chairman Fitzgerald asked the Commission if anyone was interested in volunteering for this. Please let him know if so.
Comm. Karyl Lee Hall noted this is a very important issue.
 - F. Website- Chairman Fitzgerald asked the Commissioners for assistance. He has been speaking with Debi from IT. Comm. C. Day volunteered to help. She will check out other town websites and gather information.
Comm. P. Sweeney also volunteered to assist.
Chairman Fitzgerald mentioned a few ideas he had to get the public involved.
7. Other: Nothing else was discussed.
8. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by M. Martin (clerk)