

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

MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, June 7, 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: H. Wells-Sweeney, P. Sweeney, Karyl Lee Hall,
Neil Goodard, Cynde Jasek, K. Hannon, Carol Kaminsky,
Christie Day, Joshua Greenberg

1. Approval of 5-3-23 minutes

**Neil Goodard made a motion to approve the May 3 meeting minutes.
Carol Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed.
Karen Hannon abstained.**

2. Correspondence and Announcements- None

3. New Business:

- A. Consider whether or not to send a letter in support of Proposed Changes to Branford's Landscaping zoning regulations CT Bill

The commission discussed whether to send a letter in support of the proposed changes. They had a brief discussion and the consensus was positive to send a letter.

**Karyl Lee Hall made a motion to send a letter of support.
Karen Hannon seconded the motion.
Christie Day abstained.**

- B. Section 207 of 6941 Budget Implementer Bill

The commission discussed this briefly and decided to get more clarification before taking action.

**Karyl Lee Hall made a motion to authorize Chairperson Heather Wells-Sweeney to reach out to Bill Horne to get more information regarding this bill. Then report back by email and if appropriate, the commission authorizes the Chairperson to send an email in response to this bill.
Cynde Jasek seconded the motion which passed.**

- C. Update on BHS photo contest

Chairperson Wells- Sweeney noted they received one entry.

Neil Goodard made a motion to frame the photo and display it at the Branford Festival.

Joshua Greenberg seconded the motion which passed .

4. Budget:

- A. Fiscal year 2022 - year to date

Chairperson Wells Sweeney displayed the budget information and reviewed the funds

spent so far.

Cynde Jasek noted that she purchased plants at Natureworks and planted them at the new garden on the green next to the church.

The Chairperson then reviewed prior items that were discussed but the funds weren't spent yet.

She then talked about the booth at the upcoming Branford Festival and how she would like to do an eye catching display of pollinator plants they will distribute to the public. She reviewed different options and the cost.

The commission then discussed the idea of putting together different kits for the library that people could check out. Perhaps , doing one or two as a trial run. The commission decided this can be a future meeting topic to be discussed.

Then, they talked of buying trees to be planted around town by the public works dept.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects- None

B. Proposed developments and other building projects- None

C. Invasive plant control

Patrick Sweeney noted that there were 2 or 3 sessions that took place removing invasives and more are planned. One that is scheduled will be held On July8 at 9am to noon at Youngs Pond.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)-

Christie Day said that GZA and the town will meet soon and hopefully the final contract will be signed.

E. Branford Festival

Chairperson Wells Sweeney said that helpers are needed to distribute the plants to the public. Carol Kaminsky noted that 180 plants are ready now and she will pick up 150 more next week.

The group then discussed the trifold display that will be used at the festival.

Christie Day made a motion to spend up to \$250.00 on printing and costs for the trifold display .

Karyl Lee Hall seconded the motion which passed.

F. Earth Day—Nothing was discussed

G. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford) – Nothing was discussed.

H. Pollinator Pathway

Chairperson Wells- Sweeney said they tried planting a meadow at Foote Park and some of it is growing but so are the grasses. The plan is to move the plants and use the black cloth to smother the weeds and also to place a medallion there as well.

I. Farm River

Chairperson Wells Sweeney said there is a group formed to discuss this. She is participating in a leadership capacity and is trying to get projects going. She said the next quarterly meeting will be held at the Smith Library in North Branford on June 21.

J. Outreach

Neil Goodard said he is trying to engage different people to help.

He did hear back from Mary Grande (Branford Neighbors Magazine", so that is a possible idea to publish something in that publication. He said he could do a report about the Branford Festival or the group can work together to compose something, noting that the article is by June 25th to get into the August issue. The commissioners discussed this briefly and liked the idea of submitting an article.

6. Reports:

- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition-Nothing to report
- B. Library books donations
Carol Kaminsky gave an update saying that there were some funds left so she purchased a few pollinator books for the Tisko school third graders.
- C. Spill reports- None
- D. Contaminated sites- None
- E. Coastal Resiliency Plan- Nothing to report
- F. Website- Nothing was discussed

7. Other:

- A. Tweed Airport Expansion
Karyl Lee Hall said there was a meeting held earlier that evening and she attended as well as Joshua Greenberg and Christie Day. She noted the meeting was not very productive, it was not organized well. There was no meeting format given to the public. No issues were solved.
She will keep the commission informed of any updates to this project.
- B. Planning/Budget meeting for FY 23-24
Chairperson Heather Wells- Sweeney said she would like to have a Special meeting either in the summer or in September to discuss the Commissions vision, their mission, what would they like to accomplish in The following year? She noted that the group does not meet in July or August. She will email a questionnaire to the group for possible dates For a Special Meeting.

She also told the commission that they have 4 passes for Garden in the Woods If anyone is interested.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.