

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

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, September 7, 2022

Branford Community House
46 Church Street, 1st floor, Conference Room B
7:30 p.m. (IN-PERSON)

Commissioners Present: Heather Wells-Sweeney, Patrick Sweeney, Adrian Bonenberger,

Commissioners Absent: Karyl Lee Hall, Carol Kaminsky

1. Correspondence & Announcements

Chairperson H. Wells –Sweeney announced that the next CACIWC (Ct Assn of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions) annual conference is coming up on October 29. It is open to any commissioners who wish to attend. She doesn't have the exact fee to attend. More info to follow. She noted that they will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Watercourse Act and the 50th anniversary of the National Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

She also announced that the Town of Branford submitted an application to sustainable CT. for certification as a sustainable town. Hopefully, we can reach silver status . She will keep the commission updated. She reviewed some of the items that are on the application where the town can earn points. If the town achieves silver status, it may open us as a town for funding opportunities.

2. Budget:

Fiscal year to date

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney reviewed the financial information she had as of May 2022 first. She said they requested additional funds from the town for the Natural Resource Inventory. She relayed the information she received from Finance Dept. on the procedure to do that. She said the final outcome after attending two meetings was the town granted the amount of \$20,000 for the inventory instead of the \$30,000 that was originally requested.

She then reviewed the financial information as of July 1, 2022. She said it seemed that the commission has less money this year than we did last year at this time. She will look into it further as to the reason. She reviewed the financial info to date line by line.

3. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for Coastal Projects

None

B. Proposed Developments & other building projects

None

C. Invasive Plant Control

Patrick Sweeney said he and Lauren Brown met. (I couldn't hear him speaking).

D. Natural Resource Inventory(next publication2023)

(I couldn't hear the conversation)

E. Branford Festival

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney said the commission distributed 168 plants to the public . She thanked everyone who helped with the festival. She also said they distributed some of the tree saplings and seeds they had left over from Earth Day. She said she walked around the festival and looked at how the different groups were displaying their name.

F. Pollinator Pathway

They had just discussed some of the locations of the pathway. She noted that Anderson Lookout is not doing so well. It rained a lot after the seeds were sown last year. More info to come next month.

She noted the commission has a good opportunity at Foote Park for signage for education since the park is so well visited.

She said she would be sending out an email asking for help in planting some of the plants she will be picking up on Saturday, September 17.

She noted her aim is to revitalize the pollinator pathway, to get more people involved.

She mentioned that someone contacted the umbrella organization for Pollinator Pathway to ask what's going on in Branford and Heather spoke to them and they are willing to help out with the pollinator pathway.

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney also said she is trying to get a website started with Pollinator Pathway for Branford but has not heard back yet.

G. Earth Day

Chairperson noted her hope was to work with youth to do an art show with the idea of tying people to the ideas of the commission and engaging them with conservation and land ethics, etc. She is going to reach out to teachers in the next few weeks to get that idea going.

H. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

4. Reports:

- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition
- B. Library books donations
- C. Spill reports
- D. Contaminated sites
- E. Coastal Resiliency Plan
- F. Website

5. Other:

- A. Tweed Airport Expansion

Chairperson said she received a text message today from Shirley M.? stating that the group "Save our Shoreline" is asking for an environmental study to be done. That is the same study that this commission asked for in the letter that Karyl Lee drafted and mailed out. The commission discussed this briefly.

6. Adjournment

