

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

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, September 6, 2023

Branford Community Center, 30-48 Church St., [Activity Room 1st Floor](#)
7:30 P.M.

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

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

1. Correspondence and Announcements

Per the Chairperson, a thank you note was received from Tisko School thanking the commission for the library book donation.

Also, the commission will vote on the 2024 meeting calendar at the next meeting.

2. New Business:

A. Proposed amendments to Town's Landscaping Regulations
Shirley McCarthy and a few others have been working on the Landscape Regulation revisions. Chairperson Sweeney noted that the commission had previously sent a letter of support to the Planning & zoning Dept.

The revisions are not complete since some questions remain about tree replacements, etc. The commission discussed this briefly and Chairperson Sweeney noted that more information will follow.

B. CACIWC Conference Nov. 11

Chairperson Sweeney reminded the commission that the conference is November 11 and to let her know if anyone wants to attend.

3. Budget:

A. Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023

Chairperson Sweeney reviewed what the Commission spent money on last spring and the projects that were completed. She then displayed the budget and reviewed each line item.

B. Fiscal Year 2023 – to date

She did the same for this year.

4. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects- None

B. Proposed developments and other building projects-A proposed 4 lot subdivision on Totoket Rd. is before the planning & zoning now.

C. Invasive plants

Patrick Sweeney gave updates on the various locations in town that invasive removal took place.

Joshua Greenberg asked about the process of choosing a location to remove invasives, is there a set plan? Patrick Sweeney responded.

D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Christie Day noted that this is progressing along. She suggested meeting with other groups in town to introduce it this fall. She is looking forward to reviewing it. October is the projected completion date.

E. Earth Day- Nothing was discussed

F. Branford Festival- Nothing was discussed

G. Pollinator Pathway

Chairperson Sweeney noted that she is working with Bill Horne and that area is progressing.

She noted that the Foot Park garden is not very successful, more work is needed there. She reviewed the status of a few other areas in town.

- H. Crabbing Bridge (Route 146)- Nothing was discussed
- I. Farm River
Chairperson Sweeney did a site walk with a group she is working with. She reported that a lot of excitement is growing for different projects. She told the commission the next meeting will be September 13 at the Orchard House if anyone is interested in joining.
- J. Outreach
Chairperson Sweeney noted that a cleanup day is scheduled for Sunday, October 1 for along the Branford River. She will send an email with more details if anyone is interested.

She then spoke of a large infestation (3 acres) of water chestnut. Many volunteers offered to pull it out. She said a grant may be coming to assist with that effort. More info to follow.

- K. Library Kits (Library of Things)
Neil Goodard said the library would like to give a presentation to go along with the library kits. He will let the commission know the details as he hears them.

5. Reports:

- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- Nothing was discussed
- B. Library books donations
Carol Kaminsky noted that a total of 21 books were donated by the commission last year as well as a subscription of National Geographic was sent to 2 schools. She will contact the school librarians for suggestions for this coming year.
The commissioners discussed this briefly and made a few suggestions.
- C. Spill reports- None
- D. Contaminated sites- None
- E. Coastal Resiliency Plan- Nothing was discussed.
- F. Website- Nothing was discussed

6. Other:

- A. Tweed Airport Expansion
Karyl Lee Hall noted that the Environmental Assessment was completed and everyone is awaiting a reply from the FAA. She then explained a few possible outcomes. She will report any information she hears to the Chairperson.
- B. Schedule a Planning/Budget Meeting
Chairperson Sweeney asked the commission if they would prefer a special meeting to discuss the budget or if they would rather discuss it at the regular upcoming meeting in October. The group discussed it and the consensus was that they would discuss it at the regular meeting but that the meeting will start at 7 pm, not 7:30 pm.

7. Adjournment- the meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.