

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

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6th, 2018
7:30 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER
11 CHERRY STREET, BRANFORD, CT

Present: Chairman Karen Hannon, Carol Kaminsky, Dan FitzGerald, Bob Davis, Mike McGuinness and Eleanor Saulys

Absent: Karyl Lee Hall and Jim Yakimoff

Chairman Hannon called the meeting to order at 7:35pm

Commission added discussion with Richard Shanahan on the impact of ATV/off road motorized vehicle use to the agenda. Resident Shanahan passed out photos of some of the impact that is occurring. He is looking to create awareness and get support to help address the problem. Stated people come from out of town to use the trails. Enforcement is a problem because of access and police don't want to chase operators. Town has spent money setting properties aside for open space and they are becoming an ATV park. Stated some steps could be getting more people to hike and possible bicycle use of the trails.

Commission discussed that being alert as to where the entrance points are would help. More people reporting may help drive enforcement reaction. Signage is important. Discussed it is difficult to get support for issues from an environmental stand point, may be better approaching from a public health or liability view point.

Shanahan requested a letter of support entailing the Commission's concerns that he could bring to the Selectmen.

1. Approval of Minutes: Comm. Saulys motioned to approve the May 2nd 2018 meeting minutes, Comm. McGuinness seconded. Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).
2. Correspondence and Announcements: DEEP Permit, book thank you letters
3. New Business:
Comm. Saulys reported that Eversource will abandon maintenance of their lines in the Red Rock/Quarry area of town which will impact the rare plants that are present in that area. Commission discussed possible alternative parties that could carry out maintenance. Commission discussed that they need to work on language for dog ordinance. North Haven has cat ordinances for public safety. Could test water quality at supply ponds for current practice impacts from dog use of the open space. Should look at South West Conservation District as a possible resource for testing.
4. Budget:
 - A. Fiscal year 2018 - year to date: Commission reviewed open ongoing projects. Decided to get no ATV signs from VOS for open space properties. Discussed replacing tree at Branford river park.

5. Continuing Business:

- A. Permits for coastal projects: Big Curtis – remove pier and extend dock
- B. Proposed developments and other building projects – Comm. FitzGerald stated that Planning and Zoning will have a meeting next Thursday at which the 250 North Main St project will be discussed, he plans to attend.
- C. Invasive plant control – nothing to report
- D. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023) – nothing to report
- E. Branford Festival – Comm. FitzGerald met with Terry Elton, they will have access to tables and chairs and should be near the BLT and CFC. Commission discussed that topics will include invasive species, open space map, plastics alternative and recruitment of members.

6. Reports:

- A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition – Comm. Saulys stated they will be recommend purchase of property off of Coon and Ivy because it connects to the Supply Ponds property.
- B. Library books donations – Comm. Kaminsky reported that all books have been received and cost \$260.86. Books have been delivered to High School and Walsh, need to deliver to Tisko.
- C. Spill reports – Comm. McGuinness reported May 1 at 942 Main St there was a petroleum #2 fuel spill; May 7 at 6 Garden St transformer fuel leak; May 14 at 3 Brightwood Ln tank failure of #2 fuel; May 27 Coast Guard boat ran aground near Louis Island, 1 gal of fuel on the water; May 29 at 14 Baypath Way painting contractor dumped paint on ground near pipe.
- D. Contaminated sites – noting to report
- E. Coastal Resiliency Plan – nothing to report
- F. Website – Chair Hannon had nothing new to report but requested photos again. Comm. FitzGerald asked whether the Commission wanted to establish a social media page. Commission discussed and determined they need to set protocols and look at best practices and posting limits. Comm. FitzGerald motioned to start a Facebook page, Comm. Kaminsky seconded; motion passed unanimously.

7. Other: nothing

8. Adjournment: Comm. Kaminsky motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:22, Comm. Saulys seconded; motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jaymie Frederick, Board Clerk