

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

## ***MEETING***

## ***MINUTES***

**WEDNESDAY, June 4, 2025**

**Branford Community Center, 30-48 Church St., 2nd Floor Conference Room**

**7:30 p.m.**

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

This meeting was in person and via zoom.

Commissioners Present: H. Wells-Sweeney(Chair), K. Hannon, C. Day,  
N. Goodlad , J. Greenberg, Karyl Lee Hall, C. Kaminsky ,  
Carol Zaffino (guest)

Commissioners Absent: L. Ruotolo,

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney mentioned that Carol Zaffino came to the meeting with C. Kaminsky to observe and learn about the commission and what we do.

The meeting started at 7:38 pm.

1. Approval of minutes:
2. A. May 7, 2025- These were not approved
3. Correspondence and Announcements:
  - A. Email sent denying request to meet with applicant for development at 25 Montowese.

Chair H. Wells Sweeney read the email that was sent denying the attorneys request to meet.

N. Goodlad spoke and said he got in touch with the owners of Neckers Farm and asked them if they would be interested in pollinators, etc and they were very interested with meeting with us to get more information. N. Goodlad will set up a meeting a few weeks after the festival to meet with them and exchange ideas.

Note: the commission does not meet in July or August.

4. New Business:

N. Goodlad spoke about dredging beaches and the Branford river and how the sand is brought miles out to sea. He will send more information around to the commission about this topic.

5. Previous Business:
  - A. Neonics & second-generation anticoagulants- Nothing was discussed
6. Budget:
  - A. Fiscal year 2024/25 - year to date

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney displayed the budget and reviewed it .

7. Continuing Business:
  - A. Permits for coastal projects- None
  - B. Proposed developments and other building projects- None
  - C. Invasive plant control
    - i. Next NPPC workday **June 28 9:00am at Flax Mill Preserve**  
Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney encouraged everyone to visit this preserve, there are a lot of wildflowers.
  - D. Pollinator Pathway
    - i. Expand meadow at BELC **\*\*Volunteers Needed\*\***
    - ii. Great brainstorming session 5/27  
Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney noted it was a great meeting, lots of good ideas were presented.
    - iii. →**Next steps** meet again + action items
  - E. Natural Resource Inventory- Nothing was discussed.
  - F. Earth Day: Litter Clean-up- Nothing was discussed
  - G. Branford Festival Saturday, June 14 – \*\*Volunteers Needed\*\***
  - H. Communications and Engagement- Nothing was discussed
  - I. Scenic Roads Committee  
Karyl Lee Hall spoke and gave a brief history of this committee noting that this group has been rejuvenated. This is a joint committee of Branford & Guilford. She talked about the prior meeting on May 30 and reviewed the highlights for the commission. She will send the final report to the commission. She asked Chair Sweeney to find out if it's necessary to post minutes for a subcommittee. If so, should someone be hired to do that? She suggested that we ask the town attorney. Also, the next meeting is July 17 and details on the location will follow.

Karen Hannon joined the meeting at 8:34 pm. She spoke of Ecology Park and how she went this past Sunday and thought that would be a location for bluebird boxes. She suggested putting them up in memory of Chet Bloomquist since he was instrumental in putting them up around town. She offered to install them if the commission agreed it, was a good idea.

The commission discussed this and agreed to this.

- N. Goodlad made a motion to spend up to \$400.00 for the bluebird boxes and any money left over to go to invasive plant removal by "All habitat".
- C. Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

J. Farm River coalition

i. Fundraising dance

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney said this event was a huge success and the money that was raised will go to remove invasives in the Farm River. The tentative date for that is June 27, 2025.

ii. River Cleanup **June 21 9 am-1 pm**

iii. *Trapa* watershed survey planned for June 4; removal in June, tentatively June 27

K. Pilot Forest Stewardship Plans

i. Proposal for work at Hillside, Red Rock Road- Nothing else was discussed.

8. Reports

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition-Nothing was discussed

B. Library books donations- Nothing was discussed

C. Spill reports- None

D. Contaminated sites- None

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan- this will be discussed at the Sept. meeting

F. Communications and Engagement- Nothing was discussed

9. Other:

A. Tweed Airport Expansion- Nothing was discussed

10. Adjournment- was 9:01pm