

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

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, May 7, 2025

Branford Community Center, 30-48 Church St., Second Floor Conference

Room

7:30 p.m.

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

The meeting began at 7:34 pm.

Commissioners Present: Heather Wells Sweeney, Patrick Sweeney, Neil Goodlad, Christy Day,

Josh Greenberg, Carol Kaminsky, Karen Hannon

Commissioners Absent: Karyl Lee Hall, Lauren Ruotolo

1. Approval of minutes:

A. April 2, 2025

Carol Kaminsky made a motion to approve the minutes with the revisions discussed.

Christy Day seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements:

A. UConn CLEAR workshop on Wetlands Regulations

Saturday, May 17, 2025, at UConn's Middlesex County Extension Center

Chairperson Sweeney said she will forward this information to the commission.

B. Trash complaint: near Harbor Street Bridge

Chairperson Sweeney explained that she received an email that a resident complained of trash near the marsh by the bridge. She said she went there with Josh the day of the cleanup and took care of it.

Chairperson Sweeney then mentioned she looked at the Branford Facebook page and saw the Branford Garden Club and Community Garden Group are giving out and selling plants, flowers and Seedlings. She thought this was something that this commission could be involved with. The commission discussed this a bit.

3. New Business: Nothing was discussed.

4. Previous Business:

A. Tree Give-away with Community Forest Commission

Chairperson Sweeney said the tree giveaway was a huge success. A total of 169 pine trees were distributed and she thanked Christy and Neal for their work with this giveaway.

B. Neonics

Chairperson Sweeney noted she received an email recently that Senate Bill 9 limiting the use of Neonics is out of committee and will go to the General Connecticut Senate for a vote. She said, in the past, when this Bill was up, this commission sent a letter in favor of the bill. We can do this again if the commission wants to. The commission discussed this and decided to submit a letter. She will send a draft letter by email to the commission for review before it is mailed.

5. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2024/25 - year to date

The budget information was displayed and Chairperson Sweeney reviewed it.

She also noted that the 2025-2026 budget was presented to the Rules And Ordinances committee of the RTM and they had no questions.

The group discussed the "memberships, conferences and meeting" line item and decided to support the 5 organizations that they have supported in the past.

Patrick Sweeney made a motion to spend \$515.00 on memberships for the 5 organizations they have supported in the past.

Josh Greenberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

i. Dock; forwarded email from Jaymie Frederick

The commission discussed this briefly since and noted it was sent to them for information only.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects-

The clerk is absent so nothing was discussed. Chairperson Sweeney said she would email the clerk to verify there were no proposed developments that the commission should be aware of.

C. Invasive plant control

i. Next NPPC work day undecided

ii. Proposals for work at BELC and Hillside

Chairperson Sweeney mentioned that the least expensive quotes were approximately 500.00 for a day of invasive removal. The group discussed briefly and noted maybe this is a topic for a future special meeting, maybe in a few weeks.

- D. Pollinator Pathway
 - i. BELC workdays with Scouts
 - ii. Great meeting Monday 3/31 with Jana Hogan from *the* Pollinator Pathway organization
→**Next steps??** (meet again)

E. Natural Resource Inventory- Nothing was discussed.

- F. Earth Day: Litter Clean-up Saturday, April 26
Chairperson said April 26 was raining so this was rescheduled and the turnout was good. About 50 to 100 pounds of trash was collected.
For future clean up days, a rain date should be included in the publicity.

- G. Branford Festival **Saturday, June 15 – **Volunteers Needed****
Chairperson Sweeney said she will create a google sheet so everyone can sign up for shifts to help with the native plant giveaway.

- H. Communications and Engagement
The group discussed various platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.

- I. Scenic Roads Committee-Nothing was discussed.

- J. Farm River coalition
 - i. Fundraising dance for Friends of the Farm River & Estuary
Saturday May 10th 7:00-10:00pm
Italian-American Club, 509 Laurel St., East Haven
 - ii. River Cleanup tentatively June 14 1-4 pm
 - iii. *Trapa* removal in June, tentatively June 27- More info to come

- K. Pilot Forest Stewardship Plan
 - i. Next steps?
Chairperson Sweeney said the plan was completed and its Money well spent. One of the key points from the plan is invasive Species removal. Another item that was mentioned included putting up signage to prevent felling trees.
 - ii. Proposal for work at Hillside
In the report, its suggested that we consider integrative vegetative management. The commission discussed this briefly.

5. Budget:

- B. Upcoming expense decisions
 - i. Memberships- This was previously discussed earlier in the meeting.
 - ii. Straw for Foote Park
The group discussed this and decided to wait on this item.

7. 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- Nothing was discussed
- F. Communications and Engagement- Nothing was discussed.

8. Other:

- A. Tweed Airport Expansion- Nothing was discussed.

9. Adjournment- 9:05 pm