

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

MEETING

MINUTES-Revised

WEDNESDAY, February 7, 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: Heather Wells-Sweeney, Neil Goodlad, Karen Hannon, Patrick Sweeney, Carol Kaminsky

Commissioners Absent: Christie Day, Karyl Lee Hall, Adrian Bonenberger

1. Approval of minutes:

A. December 6, 2023

P. Sweeney pointed out a few errors in the Dec. minutes which should be corrected.

N. Goodlad made a motion to approve the minutes with the edits suggested by P. Sweeney.

P. Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. January 3, 2024

H. Wells Sweeney pointed out a few typos that should be corrected.

N. Goodlad suggested some editing of the Correspondence and announcements paragraphs. He will email to me for corrections.

N. Goodlad made a motion to approve the Jan minutes with the edits that were discussed and his corrections.

H. Wells Sweeney seconded the motion which passed.

C. Kaminsky, P. Sweeney, and K. Hannon abstained since they were absent.

2. Correspondence and Announcements:

H. Wells Sweeney noted that she met with N. Goodlad and they discussed what he learned at the previous meeting he attended.

A. CLCC's conference March 23. \$65 registration

H. Wells Sweeney noted the annual conference at Wesleyan University is coming up on March 23. She attended last year and enjoyed it. The early bird deadline is March 1. She asked if anyone from the commission would like to attend. If anyone decides later they would like to attend,

simply email her and let her know.

N. Goodlad made a motion to approve H. Wells Sweeney attendance at the seminar.

C. Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

(K. Lee Hall arrived at 7:46 pm)

B. Volunteer Fair at Blackstone Library

H. Wells Sweeney noted that they had a good turnout at the volunteer day At the library. They got a large amount of people who signed up to Volunteer and they also talked to other organizations about possibly Sharing the volunteer list. Neil Goodlad agreed it was a successful day and he noted he received an email from a woman (Diana Draper from Shoreline Village CT) saying her organization is thinking of possibly having guest speakers and she asked if our group would like to join them and speak about the work we do and discuss areas of possible interest. N. Goodlad said he would be glad to speak at their meeting but he is away for a few months. He suggested asking Diana for possible meeting dates in the future. The commission agreed that was a good idea. H. Wells Sweeney also noted that she sent an email out to all the people Who signed up to volunteer stating we would be in touch in the next few months with activities that they can join if they wish.

C. Main Street Renovation

P. Sweeney gave an update on the Main Street renovation project saying He wrote to the Town Engineer and the First Selectman with his concerns With the plans that showed nonnative trees being planted and they Responded with comments from the landscape architect indicating that His initial suggestions would be followed to some degree and that they Would be planting natives in lieu of nonnatives. It seemed like there was a misunderstanding prior but the plans P. Sweeney saw showed native plants.

3. New Business:

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2024 - year to date

H. Wells Sweeney displayed the budget excel sheet and gave an update. She reviewed the money that was spent.

C. Kaminsky suggested adding an additional \$40.00 to the library book budget. The commission discussed this briefly and agreed to increase it by \$50.00.

C. Kaminsky made a motion to add \$50.00 to the library book budget .

H. Wells Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Continuing Business:

- A. Priority- and Goal-setting- This is continued to the next meeting.
- B. Permits for coastal projects- None
- C. Proposed developments and other building projects-None
- D. Invasive plant control –Nothing was discussed
- E. Pollinator Pathway- Nothing was discussed
- SIGNAGE**
- F. Natural Resource Inventory (next publication 2023)

Christie Day is absent so we won't have a current update from her. H.Wells Sweeney noted that the Branford Land Trust will post the NRI on their website when it is complete if the commission agrees. The Commission discussed it and thought it was a good idea.

G. Earth Day Fair will be Saturday, April 27

- Band?
- Plants?
- ??Annual Litter Pick Up??

H. Wells Sweeney noted the new date for the Earth Day celebration will be April 27. She reminded the commission that last year the commission had a table and also hired a band. H. Wells Sweeney was able to secure a grant to pay most of the band cost and the commission paid the balance of \$100.00 .She said she will try again this year to secure a grant and asked the commission for their approval to pay the \$100.00 balance again. The commission agreed.

- N. Goodlad made a motion to spend \$100.00 for a band for Earth Day.
- K. Lee Hall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

H. Wells Sweeney then said in prior years, the commission hosted a litter clean up day. Now, it is the same day as the Earth Day fair and the litter pick up participation has dropped. She suggested separating the two events in order to get more people to participate. The commission agreed and discussed a few more ideas to get more participation. P. Sweeney suggested reaching out to other groups to ask for help. H. Wells Sweeney will compile a list of contacts in town that she can reach out to. The commissioners can email her suggestions of other people to contact as well.

H. Branford Festival

H. Wells Sweeney stated the festival will be mid-June and there is time left But the commission will need to decide if they want to give away plants as they have in prior years and decide on the dollar amount. The commission discussed Nature Works and if they are open or if they supply native plants.

H. Wells Sweeney explained that some of the funds in the budget needs to be moved via a transfer. She reviewed the procedure to do this. The commission discussed prior plant purchases.

P. Sweeney made a motion to spend \$3,000 on plants (the same amount As last year).

C. Kaminsky seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

I. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford) – Karyl Lee had no update.

J. Farm River Coalition

FFRE's water chestnut grant application

Wells Sweeney noted that the grant was submitted and the project cost came to \$93,000 to mechanically remove the invasive water chestnut from Paiges Mill Pond on the Farm River. She will keep the commission updated on the status of the grant.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition- Nothing to report

B. Library books donations

C. Spill reports- None

D. Contaminated sites - None

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan

F. Website

7. Other:

A. Tweed Airport Expansion

8. Adjournment