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**TOWN OF BRANFORD
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY
Meeting Minutes January 5, 2022
Branford Community House
46 Church Street
6:00 PM**

Chair Rich Shanahan opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Rich Shanahan, Judy Miller, Wes Beeman, Wendy Chapman, John Tolbert, Ainsley Highman, and Warden Don Kacenski. Absent: Amy Bartels. Approximately 20 members of the public were in attendance

- Public discussion: _Christmas Tree at Supply Ponds

Rich made some opening remarks about the history of Mica Notz's Christmas tree at the Supply Ponds.

Mica explained the reasons for her desire to place a Christmas tree at the Supply Ponds. She was supported by several other members of the public, who made comments in favor of the Christmas tree: Jaycee Wyatt, 84 East Main Street; Sally Howd, 124 Chestnut Street; Mary Jo, 16 Collins Drive; Todd Petrowski, 67 South Main Street; Julia Palm, 12 Stonewall Lane, and Ray Ingraham, RTM representative for Branford's 5th District.

Judy made a motion that the Parks and Open Space Authority deny any application to bring and leave behind outside materials or decorations of any kind in the open spaces for which this authority is responsible. Rich seconded. Richard and Judy voted in favor; Wes, Wendy, and John Tolbert opposed; Ainsley Highman abstained. Motion denied.

John Tolbert then made a motion to approve Mica Notz's tree so long as everything passes through the Selectmen: just the tree with agreed upon ornaments. Wendy second. Ainsley, JT, Wendy, and Wes voted in favor; Richard and Judy opposed. Motion carried.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Don reported that there has been a lot of illegal dumping at the Supply Ponds, especially near the old ice house. He has made an effort to clean it up, as have others. He has dealt with the many tree limbs that have come down as a result of high winds. Don will order locks for gates. Don has cleaned up the Beacon Hill campsite.

- Queach fence repair – Completed**
- Trash removal from illegal campsite – Completed**
- Chain & lock for new gate on Branford Trail - Completed**
- Padlock for Quarry Kiosk - Completed**
- Police Radio request – On hold due to supply chain bottlenecks -**
- Kiosk repairs - Pending**

SUPPLY PONDS:

- Repairs to dam are finished. Supply Ponds are filling up, but the workers didn't close the dam all the way so there is some leakage. Also, we should take the warning signs away now that the pond is filling. Some signs have been vandalized.**
- Town Attorney Bill Aniskovich has submitted a draft of a letter to the owner of 5 Hannah Drive warning of encroachment on the Supply Ponds. Rich will propose a few changes, and then the letter will go out.**
- Erosion and sedimentation behind Ferndale & Island View Condos. Island View has been contacted by the IWC, however, they have two different boards, which makes action difficult. Several remediations of the erosion were suggested.**

- Pine Gutter Brook. Boy Scouts led by Scout leader Pete Daros and Ainsley put logs down in the streambed. Richard consulted John Witkowski, who says that he can do something to stop the erosion, but he's not sure of the cost. It was suggested that it might be possible to break the project up into several separate projects. Squire Hill is the source of the water flow; rip rap and or holding ponds might mitigate the damage caused by the flow of water.
- Sed Pond estimate – Discussion. Richard is hoping to receive an estimate to repair the Yellow Trail near the kiosk at the base of the Quench property. Could possibly be combined with the Sed Pond
- Bridge replacement - John Tolbert has consulted an acquaintance, Mia Samsel, who is a physicist and environmental engineer. Her informal assessment was that it looked like it would be better to put in a new bridge rather than try to fix the old one. It was suggested that we hire her for a formal estimate.
- Discussion. - “Entering Supply Ponds” signage. Rich has received an estimate and is looking at it; it is under \$3000.00. He handed out the suggested design (See below). Judy Miller suggested that the font on the proposed sign was too fussy, and that it be replaced with a simpler font.
- Supply Pond Meadow – Mowing completed. We are trying to reclaim the meadow, and Rich invited suggestions from the board.
- Peninsula Kiosk – Rich has requested an estimate for the work.

PISGAH BROOK & SALTONSTALL MTN.:

- Plank walkway on Branford Trail near Eppes. Postpone to next fiscal year
- Boulder placement needed at DeLeo gate, culvert gate, “knockers Hole”, &

surrounding area. Erosion control needed past DeLeo and on Laurel Hill – Estimates submitted. Requisitions for P.O.'s in progress.

BEACON HILL:

- Public Works has leveled off the pile of fill that was in the middle of the parking lot, but the parking lot still needs work.
- The trail in to the trolley line has serious ruts. Don explained that it is impossible to maintain. He cleans out the debris from the swales and clears out the culverts, but they fill almost immediately. Larger culverts may be needed.
- Rich said that funding for improving the gate, parking lot, and trail at Beacon Hill will be applied for in next year's budget.

QUARRY:

- Kiosk at Van Wie Pond & repair of kiosk at Red Hill Road - pending.
- Land Trust Trail Maintenance Work Party – Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am. Quarry parking area. Clean up and brush cutting.

OTHER/NEW BUSINESS:

- Greenway status for Branford Trail. Rich and Judy will walk the section between Evergreen Woods and Flax Mill Road to assess ownership and possible alternate routes. We can make application to the Greenway Council for the rest of the trail without including this section. After the walk, the next step is to prepare a letter to the Board of Selectman for approval.
- Parks & Open Space Facebook page - Update. Wendy reported that this is a work in progress.
- Rich needs to put a budget together for the 2022/23 year. He asked other board members for suggestions.

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at the Branford Community Center at 6:00 pom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

