

Town of Branford  
Parks and Open Space Authority  
June 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes  
Supply Ponds – Peninsula Parking Lot

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*Kaci E. Apin*  
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Chair Richard Shanahan opened the Meeting at 6:02 pm

Present: Richard Shanahan, Wendy Burton, Leslie Bernardini, John Tolbert, Wes Beaman, Ainsley Highman, Matt Reed and Greg Cox

**WARDENS REPORT:** John Tolbert has been cutting back the brush from the trails. Matt Reed discussed the large amount of brush that will need to be cut on various properties. He has made three outings with the new brush cutter and is learning where it will work best. He discussed the various places that boardwalks need to be placed.

**SUPPLY PONDS:**

- We will be stocking 220 Large Mouth Bass soon, despite some stocking issues
- The pink trail is almost complete and will be blazed in pink soon
- Trail maintenance needs to be done on the Green Trail from the meadow and the Red Trail

**QUEACH PROPERTY, PISGAH BROOK & SALTONSTALL MTN.:**

- New boulders will be placed on Saltonstall Mountain
- We discussed the vandalism at the Pisgah Brook bridge
- Upper Queach needs brush cutting

**HILLTOP PRESERVE:**

- The Survey to the two entrances is expected to start in July

**CHANGES TO THE TOWN CHARTER:**

- We discussed amending the section of the Town Charter covering Parks & Open Space (Chapter 190, Article III).

The proposed changes include:

**190-7** - Change the name of the Branford Park and Open Space Authority to the Branford Open Space Commission.

**190-11, Paragraph A, Item 8** - Amend the Use Rules and Regulations, Paragraph A, Item 8 to include the prohibition of gas and battery powered vehicles and adding dirtbikes, eBikes, eScooters to the list of unauthorized vehicles.

**190-11, Paragraph B**– Increase the maximum fine from \$100 to \$500 for the violation of the rules for each offense.

Ainsley Highman made a motion to present these proposed revisions to the RTM for approval. Wendy Burton seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to present the proposed revisions.

**OTHER/NEW BUSINESS:**

- Status report - Open Space Facebook page continues to grow, 670 Followers
- The Fiber Glass Boardwalks have been delivered
- We discussed replacing the sign "Welcome to the Preserves" and will do so at a later date

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday July 2, 2025 at Beacon Hill – Pent Road Parking Lot