

TOWN OF BRANFORD  
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY  
APRIL 6, 2022  
MEETING MINUTES  
HELD AT BRANFORD COMMUNITY HOUSE

Chair: Richard Shanahan opened the Meeting at 6:00 pm

Present: Richard Shanahan, Wendy Chapman, Judy Miller, Amy Bartels, John Tolbert, and Ainsley Highman.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- POSA was honored to have 6 guests within the local equestrian community attend our meeting to discuss trail access for horses around the Supply Ponds and Pisgah Brook Preserves. Attending guests were: Dagmar and Dave Ridgway, Lindsay Johnson, Connor Rabidean, Audree Herrera-Symonds and Taylor Chambers-Scussel.

Dave Ridgway opened the conversation discussing the difficulties some of the horses have accessing the trails through some of the gates and the ATV boulder barriers, as well as several fallen trees along the trails. Several of the gates have been made to allow horses to pass over the gates, and we all understand that not all horses are able to cross over. The board asked if they see any fallen trees to contact us via our Friends of Branford Open Space facebook page, and we will do our best to clear them as quickly as we can. However, the board members discussed the need for the barriers and gates to remain due to the extreme erosion the ATV's have on the trail systems. All of the equestrian riders have noticed a decrease in ATV's and the destruction since the gates and boulders have been in place. A compromise was agreed upon with access to the gates for equestrian riders. We all agreed on the importance to protect and preserve our towns open spaces.

Audree suggested chain link fence at the north part of the Quench property be painted a bright color to make it more visible for all trail users.

SUPPLY PONDS:

- 5 Hannah Drive - A Formal Complaint has been filed with the Branford Police Department and an Email was sent to Town Attorney on April 2, 2022 regarding the encroachment issue.

- Pine Gutter Brook Erosion Problem - Looking at early to mid summer to start erosion and bridge issues.

- Meeting with IWC and engineering at Squire Hill Condos
- Budget request submitted to Finance Committee. Next step is RTM
- In process of issuing P.O. for Sed Pond excavation, regrade of Green Trail, regrade of Yellow Trail.
- Pine Gutter Brook Bridge – JT to head up project. Materials & contractors identified. Budget request submitted.

- Erosion control and sedimentation containment behind Ferndale & Island View Condos – No update

- Proposed new trails into Queach & Supply Ponds – Will map out on proposed trail on Avenza and submit app to IWC for Red Rock Road Trail. Pine Gutter Trail on hold.

- Supply Pond Meadow – Don and Richard to review area, looking to remove invasive plants along perimeter before summer.

- Quinnipiac Big Event – Cancelled

- Peninsula Kiosk – Contractor to complete by end of April

- “Entering Preserves” Signs – P.O. issued. Board approved new sign layout and Parking space line and stencil painting.

PISGAH BROOK & SALTONSTALL MTN.:

- Waiting for boulder placement and trail regrade past DeLeo, Need estimate.

- “Whack-A-Mole” supplemental boulders needed at Saltonstall, Laurel Hill, Northern Entrance, Flax Mill – Need estimate

- Identifying and prioritizing trail sections in need of repair/rehab for FY 22/23.

- Branford Trail in “Knockers Hole” – Potential Volunteer work party

- Green Trail on Hilltop Drive

BEACON HILL:

- Budget submitted for improvements in FY 22/23 budget, waiting for budget approval.

QUARRY:

- Quarry Map update completed. Re-blazing of trails west of Quarry to start, Amy volunteered to help.

- Van Wie Pond & Red Hill Road kiosks– Contractor to complete by end of April

- BLT Litter pick up for scheduled for Earth Day at Red Hill Road, Saturday April 23 at 9:00 am. Will be posted on ‘Friends of Branford Open Space’ facebook page.

WARDENS REPORT: Don Kacenski

- General report - Don continues to remove downed trees around the Queach preserves.

- Police Radio request – Call into Chief Mahoney

- Kiosk repairs – Pending

OTHER/NEW BUSINESS:

- Greenway status for Branford Trail – Update on North Woods section. Judy discussed possibly making a list of land owners along each section and contacting them with plan documents. Alternate routes are also being considered it need be.

- ‘Friends of Branford Open Space’ Facebook page – Wendy reported a continuing increase of followers each month. 191 followers at time of meeting. Wendy continues to post pictures of trails and planned volunteer work party info.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm. at Supply Pond Meadow.