

BRANFORD REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

RECEIVED

**LEGAL NOTICE AND CALL
BUDGET MEETING**

APR 27 REC'D

TUESDAY, May 9, 2023 at 8:00 p.m.

BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

The RTM will be convened on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. at Branford Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street, to consider and act upon the following matters.

1. Roll Call.
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Reception of communications, reports of committees, and citizen petitions.
4. To consider, and if appropriate, approve the following transfer in the current year to reduce tax requirements in the FY2024 requested budget:

Transfers from Fund Balance

Increase:	10190000-480296	Fund Balance	\$646,000
Increase:	10150000-599110	Transfer Out-Capital Fund 700	646,000

Transfers Capital Fund 700

Increase:	700-90000-490010	Transfer In	\$646,000
Increase:	700-48000-579400-23xx	BOE Security System	646,000

RESOLVED: That the RTM approves an appropriation from undesignated fund balance of \$646,000 to fund an appropriation for a school security system. This appropriation increases the Fiscal year 2023 General Fund budget from \$124,821,065 to \$125,467,065.

5. The Board of Finance approved the following budget for fiscal year 2023-2024:

Board of Education: Operating Budget	\$62,911,644
Board of Education: Special Education	\$0
Board of Education Capital & Leases	\$571,925
Subtotal Board of Education:	\$63,483,569
Town Departments:	\$67,027,199
TOTAL	<u>\$130,510,768</u>

- A. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$63,483,569 to the Board of Education (Operating Budget + Capital) for fiscal year 2023-2024.
- B. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$67,027,199 for all other Town Departments for fiscal year 2023-2024.
 - a. Report and adoption of Education Committee budgets
 - b. Report and adoption of Ways and Means budgets
 - c. Report and adoption of Rules and Ordinances budgets
 - d. Report and adoption of Public Services budgets
 - e. Report and adoption of Administrative Services budgets.

6. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$69,887 to the Open Space Fund Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.
7. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$16,472 to the Sewer Assessment Fund Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.
8. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$71,600 to the BOE Shoreline Adult Education Enrichment Fund Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.
9. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$511,472 to the BOE School Age Child Care Fund Budget for year fiscal 2023-2024.
10. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$4,813,105 to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024.
11. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of appropriation of \$450,106 to the Animal Control Fund Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.
12. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$1,913,499 to the Human Services Special Revenue Fund Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.
13. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$420,000 Lease Fund Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.
14. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance of an appropriation of \$2,115,000 to the ARPA Fund Budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024.
15. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance to the RTM that, with the exceptions of the 1st Selectman who has elected to take a 0% increase, salaries for the following elected officials increase by 2.0% for each of their two year term of office: Second Selectman, Third Selectman, Treasurer, Board of Assessment Appeals, RTM Moderator, RTM Clerk and Finance Clerk.
16. To consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendation of the Board of Finance to the RTM that, the salary for the following elected official increase by 2.25% for each two year term of office: Town Clerk.
17. To consider, and if appropriate, adopt a policy, for virtual meetings into our Town Meeting Rules.
18. To consider, and if appropriate, approve a ten (10) year extension to a lease agreement between the Town of Branford and Branford Early Learning Center, Inc.
19. Any other business to come before the RTM.
20. Adjournment.

Dated this 26th day of April, 2023
Dennis T. Flanigan, RTM Moderator

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT



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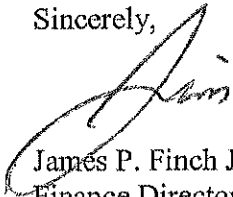
April 28, 2023

Honorable Dennis Flanigan
RTM Moderator

Dear Mr. Flanigan:

Please be advised that the Town will be participating in the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program. In order for programs to be eligible they must be approved by the RTM and forwarded to the State by the end of June. In an effort to comply with this timetable I respectfully request that this item be referred to the appropriate RTM committee to facilitate the required approvals before the filing deadline.

Sincerely,



James P. Finch Jr.
Finance Director

CC: J. Cosgrove
RTM

W. S. Flanigan
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

2023 MAY -1 A 11: 22

RECEIVED

Lisa Arpin

From: Kate Galambos <kategalambos@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 5:38 PM
To: dflanigan1215@aol.com
Cc: Peter Black; dlaitchrtm@gmail.com; Lisa Arpin; Tyler Bowne; Trista Milici
Subject: Proposed Ordinance Change: Leaf Blowers
Attachments: Leaf Blower Ordinance - Branford - 4.27.23.pdf; Leaf Blowing Ordinance Timeline and Fact Sheet.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] This email originated from outside of the Town of Branford's Email System. DO NOT click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Flanigan,

Please accept the attached documents for review by the Rules and Ordinances Committee of the Branford RTM.

Thank you.

Kate Galambos
307 Field Point Road, Branford

Noel Corry
84 Riverview Ave, Branford

Leaf Blowing Ordinance
Town of Branford CT

LEAF BLOWERS

ARTICLE ___

___-1. Purpose.

Consistent with the municipal powers granted under sections 7-148(c)(7) and (10) of the Connecticut General Statutes, including the protection of the health and safety of residents and abatement of nuisances, it is the intent of this ordinance to set specific controls on the use of Leaf Blowers, in particular Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers.

___-2. Definitions.

For the purpose of this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

“Leaf Blower” shall mean any device that is used or designed to move leaves, grass clippings, dust, dirt, or other matter by blowing them with air emitted by such device.

“Gas-Powered Leaf Blower” shall mean any backpack or handheld Leaf Blower that is powered by an internal combustion engine utilizing gasoline, diesel, or any other similar fuel.

“Electric-Powered Leaf Blower” shall mean any Leaf Blower that is powered by electricity utilizing a plug-in cord or battery power.

“Summer” shall mean the days beginning on May 1st and ending on October 15th of each year.

“Approved Hours” shall mean Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm; and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

___-3. Regulation of Leaf Blower Activity.

(a) Electric-Powered Leaf Blowers may be used during the Approved Hours on all properties within the Town.

(b) Beginning on May 1, 2024, Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may not be used on any state or federal holiday.

(c) Beginning on May 1, 2024, and ending on October 15, 2024:

(1) Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may be used between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm on Mondays through Fridays, and between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm on Saturdays. Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may not be used on Sundays.

(2) Only one (1) Gas-Powered Leaf Blower may be used on a property of one-quarter (1/4) acre or less.

Leaf Blowing Ordinance
Town of Branford CT

- (d) Beginning on October 15, 2024, Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may only be used between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.
- (e) Beginning on May 1, 2025, Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may not be used during Summer.
- (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections __-3 (a) through (e):
 - (1) Individual residents maintaining their own property shall be permitted to use Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers during the Approved Hours. Effective May 1, 2025, individual residents shall comply with Section __-3(e) regarding the use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers during Summer.
 - (2) The use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers and Electric-Powered Leaf Blowers shall be permitted for storm condition clean-up, emergency situations affecting the health or safety of residents, and snow removal operations.
 - (3) The provisions of this Article shall not apply to the use of Leaf Blowers on State- or Town-owned property, or on any property in excess of 20 acres except residential communities, or the use of Leaf Blowers by public utilities.

__-4. Education.

The Sustainability and Compliance Office shall broadly communicate the terms of this Article and encourage property owners to comply. Upon receipt of a written complaint (via email or hard copy) of a potential violation of this Article, the Sustainability and Compliance Officer or their designee shall provide written information and educational materials about the terms of this Article to the property owner.

__-5. Severability.

If any section, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, or provision of this Article shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the specific section, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this Article shall be deemed valid and effective.

__-6. Effective Date.

The provisions of this Article shall become effective on May 1, 2024.

Town of Branford CT
Leaf Blowing Ordinance
Proposed Timeline

May 1, 2024	Oct 15, 2024	May 1, 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinance goes into effect • Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may not be used on any state or federal holiday. • Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may be used between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm on Mondays through Fridays, and between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm on Saturdays. • Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may not be used on Sundays. • Only one Gas-Powered Leaf Blower may be used on a property of ¼ acre or less 	<p>Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may only be used between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.</p>	<p>Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may not be used during Summer.</p>

Why Does Branford Need Controls on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers (GLBs)?

- GLBs produce toxic raw exhaust and blow 3 of the top 4 most carcinogenic particulates into the air that linger for hours and are inhaled by landscape workers, children, adults, and pets.
- GLBs emit excessive ozone and more greenhouse gases than a truck driving 3900 miles.
- GLBs destroy the natural leaf litter cover that protects and feeds plants, wildlife, insects, and pollinators. They desiccate and harden the top soil, increasing storm water runoff and flooding.

Branford Would Not Be the First Town to Control GLBs

- Over 200 municipalities around the country have placed controls on gas blowers.
- The state of California and the District of Columbia prohibit GLBs
- Branford's neighbors have GLB controls:
 - Westport, Stamford, and Greenwich CT
 - Over 20 municipalities in Westchester County NY
 - GLBs have been banned in Scarsdale NY for 20 years
 - Several towns in Massachusetts
 - Boston MA will prohibit GLBs for commercial use starting in 2025

What's The Alternative?

Option 1: Electric-Powered Leaf Blowers

- Electric leaf blowers represent a viable alternative to GLBs.
- The newer commercial models provide at least 80% of the power that GLBs produce, but are significantly quieter with lower maintenance and no toxic emissions.
- Sound waves from an electric blower are higher register, so they do not penetrate walls and windows or travel long distances as compared to GLB low register sound waves.
- Electric leaf blowers save landscapers significant costs through reduced maintenance and time spent refueling.

What's the Alternative?

Option 2: “Leave the Leaves”

- According to the University of Connecticut, mulching a 2” layer of fallen leaves into the lawn in the fall adds approximately 150 lbs. of nitrogen, 20 lbs. of phosphorus, and 65 lbs. of potassium per acre
- Fall fertilizer may be reduced or eliminated by annually incorporating finely chopped leaf litter into the lawn and garden.
- Preserving intact leaves, to which insects may have become attached, protects and allows beneficial insects to complete their life cycle within the garden

https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/leaf_disposal_mulch_mowing/