

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

## ***MEETING***

## ***MINUTES***

**WEDNESDAY, November 6, 2024**

**Branford Community Center, 30-48 Church St., Activity Room**

**7:30 p.m.**

**or via Zoom with the link below if unable to attend in person.**

Commissioners Present-Heather Wells Sweeney(Chairperson), Patrick Sweeney,  
Joshua Greenberg, Neil Goodlad, Lauren Ruotolo,  
Carol Kaminsky, Karen Hannon, Christie Day (arrived late)

Also present: Stephanie Upson (Branford Resident) She came to observe. She noted that she is interested in getting involved in local decision making.

1. Approval of minutes:

A. September 4, 2024

C.Kaminsky made a motion to approve the minutes with the edits discussed.

P. Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. October 16, 2024

C.Kaminsky made a motion to approve the minutes with the edits Discussed.

P.Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements:

A. Email from Bill Horne re: Eric Lepik and Ecology Park

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney explained that Bill Horne received an email from a resident (Eric Lopic) and he has forwarded it to our commission as well as other commissions. He would like to do restoration work in Ecology Park. Bill has reached out to him to ask about his background and experience, etc. Nothing else has happened yet, she wanted the commission to be aware of it. She will forward any information that she receives to the commission.

The commission discussed this briefly.

B. CLCC Conference March 22, 2025

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney noted that the Connecticut Land Conservation Council will hold their annual conference on March 22,2025. She has attended this twice and found it to be a great conference.

- C. We've received a gift of 5 high bush blueberry shrubs and 5 groundsel trees. I need volunteers to help me plant them.  
Chairperson Wells Sweeney suggested a few locations in which to plant them. She also asked for volunteers to help plant them.  
Neil Goodlad, Carol Kaminsky and Lauren Ruotolo volunteered to help with the planting.

Neil Goodlad mentioned he received a letter from Jaime Cosgrove reappointing him as a commissioner until August of 2027. He asked if any of the other commissioners received that letter.  
Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney noted that commissioners will automatically be reappointed until they officially resign.

3. New Business:

A. Calendar

i. December meeting

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney noted that she is unable to make the December 4 meeting. She asked the group if they could reschedule the meeting for the next Wednesday (Dec 11) and they agreed.

ii. 2025 meeting dates

The commission discussed the dates and J. Greenberg made a motion to approve the 2025 meeting calendar.  
C.Kaminsky seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2024 - year to date

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney reviewed the budget .

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects-- None

B. Proposed developments and other building projects--None

C. Invasive plant control – Nothing was discussed.

D. Pollinator Pathway

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney noted she purchased and planted the items they spoke about at Foote Memorial Park.

E. Natural Resource Inventory

Chairperson Wells Sweeney noted that C.Day had noted at a prior meeting that a press release was to go out about this. She will follow up on that and report back.

F. Branford Festival –Nothing was discussed.

G. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

K.Lee Hall noted that a report was due six weeks ago on Rt. 146 but was delayed due to the flooding in Oxford, CT. She will follow up and keep the commission posted.

H. Farm River coalition

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney reminded the commission that they applied for a grant to remove invasive species. They did not get the grant and one of the reasons why is that there is no public access.

They will make some revisions and reapply for the grant again. She will keep the commission updated.

I. Pilot Forest Stewardship Plan

P. Sweeney did not have any new information to report, he briefly reviewed what the Forest Stewardship Plan was.

6. Reports:

A. Select Committee for Open Space Acquisition-Nothing was discussed.

B. Library books donations – Nothing was discussed.

C. Spill reports-- None

D. Contaminated sites -- None

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan—Nothing was discussed.

F. Cross-commission meeting- Nothing was discussed.

G. Highlights from the SALT conference from Carol and Karen

Carol Kaminsky and Karen Hannon gave brief comments about the Smaller American Lawns Today conference they recently attended. They both found it to be very interesting and informative.

7. Other:

A. Tweed Airport Expansion

Karyl Lee Hall noted that an appeal in Federal Court brought on by Save the Sound is pending. She will keep the commission posted on any further developments.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.