

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

MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, June 5, 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, Patrick Sweeney, Neil Goodlad, Karen Hannon, Karyl Lee Hall, Christy Day, Joshua Greenberg, Carol Kaminsky

Chairperson Sweeney noted that there is a dock permit in the mailbox in the First Selectman office that was sent to DEEP and the Army Corp of Engineers. She asked Me to scan it into the online file then email to the commissioners.

Chairperson Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:35. She noted that also present in the meeting room were Joshua Greenberg, Patrick Sweeney and Carol Kaminsky. Also present was a new member to the commission, Lauren who introduced herself and gave her credentials noting she works for a nonprofit Wildlife Society. The commission welcomed her to the group.

Also present was Paul Muniz (Chair of the Solid Waste Commission). He introduced himself and gave his credentials, then explained what his commission does. He then spoke of Solid Waste and recycling and their tonnage collected for each individual category. He then talked of the cost of recycling for each commodity.

Also, he said the town is currently looking to interview a new compliance person since Tyler left.

Karyl Lee Hall asked a few questions and said she would contact town hall to ask about obtaining a copy of the trash contracts.

Neil Goodlad added a few comments saying that the UK and Scotland and many other countries recycle much more than we do in the US. He went into some detail of how recycling works in other countries .

Karyl Lee Hall commented and noted that there are many condos in Branford and asked why can't we charge the condo association for recycling pick up?

Paul also added he is a member of the Coastal Vulnerability Working Group, and they are looking for new members.

1. Approval of minutes:
 - A. May 1, 2024

Christie Day made a motion to approve the May minutes.

Patrick Sweeney seconded the motion which passed.
Karen Hannon abstained.

2. Correspondence and Announcements:

A. Trash/Plastic

Neil Goodlad will circulate the papers he got from Paul Muniz regarding recycling. (This item was just discussed)

B. Knotweed

Neil Goodlad stated that in the UK, once you have Japanese Knot wood in your property, its blighted.

He noticed that her in the US, we cut grass and then it spreads. He said it needs to be eradicated, cutting and digging it up doesn't work, noting it's a massive problem. The commission discussed this, and Karyl Lee Hall asked Neil to email her, she had a few ideas to help.

3. New Business: None

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2024 - year to date

Chairperson Sweeney reviewed the budget, line by line. She reviewed prior memberships that the commission had .

Carol Kaminsky made a motion to renew the memberships as discussed.

Neil Goodlad seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

She then reviewed outstanding purchase orders.

She noted that there are funds left in the services account and made a few suggestions as to how to spend those funds. The commission discussed this and added a few ideas.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects

--Dock proposal

33 Jefferson Rd- It is being reviewed by DEEP & Army Corp.

B. Proposed developments and other building projects- None

C. Invasive plant control

Patrick Sweeney noted that there were a few small-scale work groups, and he reviewed the locations of each and what they cleared. He noted the next work group is scheduled for July.

D. Pollinator Pathway

Chair Sweeney said that on Saturday, Sept 12 they are meeting at the Early Learning Center to remove mugwort. All are welcome to come and help.

E. Natural Resource Inventory

Christie Day said she is trying to finish up a press release for this and Bill Horne edited it. She will update the group as this progresses.

F. Branford Festival **Saturday, June 15**

Chairman Sweeney asked the group to come and help if they can. The people that have booths can arrive at the green at 6:30 am and must leave the green by 3:45 pm. There is a lot of work to do distributing the plants.

G. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford)

Karyl Lee Hall said the DOT is working on the study on Rt 146. There will be a community meeting when its completed. The crabbing bridge is the first item that will be improved under the new proposed plan. She will keep the group updated on the progress.

H. Farm River coalition

Chair Sweeney said there is a clean up day scheduled for June 29 from 3-6 pm. The launch area will be Meadow Street. You can bring a canoe or kayak. More clean up dates are planned.

There is also an upcoming meeting of the coalition on June 18. More info to come.

I. Pilot Forest Stewardship Plan

Patrick Sweeney noted that a PO has been approved for the stewardship plans, He is meeting with various people to formulate a plan after all the goals have been set. He will keep us up to date.

6. Reports:

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

B. Library books donations-No updates to discuss

C. Spill reports--- None

D. Contaminated sites--- None

E. Coastal Resiliency Plan-Nothing was discussed

F. Cross-commission meeting

Patrick Sweeney spoke a bit about this meeting, noting it would be 3 commissions together meeting. He will keep us updated.

7. Other:

A. Tweed Airport Expansion- Nothing was discussed.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.