

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

## ***MEETING***

## ***MINUTES***

**WEDNESDAY, September 4, 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, Christie Day(arrived at 7:50),  
Joshua Greenberg, Carol Kaminsky ,Lauren Ruotolo

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

1. Approval of minutes:

A. June 5, 2024

P. Sweeney made a motion to approve the minutes as amended by  
Chairperson Heather Wells-Sweeney.

L. Ruotolo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. June 25, 2024

N. Goodlad made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

P. Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence and Announcements:

A. CACIWC conference Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>

Chairperson Wells Sweeney announced the conference is \$75.00 each to  
attend. She encouraged anyone who is interested to let her know and they  
can attend.

B. Farm River Cleanup Saturday September 21 (time TBA)

She then announced the clean-up time is from 1 to 4 pm at 145 Meadow  
Street in East Haven. She encouraged everyone to try to attend, it's a fun  
event.

C. Calendar 2025—will vote next time; check your personal calendars  
For any conflicts.

3. New Business:

A. Proposal by Ken Engelman

Chairperson Wells Sweeney explained that Ken Engelman, who is a  
Branford resident, and works in advertising came up with some ideas. It

began with Shirley McCarthy recommending he watch the video by Doug Ptolemy about planting native plants Heather to brainstorm some ideas, what would kit be, etc.? Chairperson Wells -Sweeney noted that nothing has been done officially yet, she wanted to discuss it with the commission to ask if this was something they would want to be involved in as a Commission. If so, she can't do it alone. She would like a subcommittee to take over this. Also, she mentioned that Ken Engelman role is to set this up and get it rolling and then we take over. She went into a bit of detail about possible ideas, loyalty cards or maybe a discount with Agway if purchasing natives, etc. The commission discussed this a bit. They added a few more ideas and the consensus was that they liked the basic idea. They thought it would be helpful to invite Ken to a future meeting so they can hear his ideas.

Chairperson Wells Sweeney suggested at some point having a kickoff event, something to draw attention to this. Similar to the Pollinator Pathway kickoff event.

4. Budget:

A. Fiscal year 2024 - year to date

Chairperson Wells Sweeney noted that she has nothing to discuss pertaining to the budget.

She mentioned that the commission once again is sharing the cost to join the CACIWC with the Inland Wetlands Dept.

5. Continuing Business:

A. Permits for coastal projects- None

B. Proposed developments and other building projects- None

C. Invasive plant control

P. Sweeney noted there were four events and they were all successful. He then mentioned the different areas and what was accomplished in each area.

D. The Pollinator Pathway

Chairperson Wess Sweeney said she weeded the garden at Foote Memorial Park noting the Beach Plums are looking good. Also, the garden may need more plants. She asked the commission for permission to spend \$200.00 to purchase more plants for that space.

C. Day made a motion to authorize her to spend \$200.00 on additional plants there.

L. Ruotolo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

E. Natural Resource Inventory

D. Day noted she spoke with GZA to have them work on the website to make it easier to find the NRI.

Chairperson Wells Sweeney asked the commission about trying to get the word out that this is complete and that it's a great resource. Lauren R. volunteered to assist with this effort.

F. Branford Festival

Chairperson Wells Sweeney said the festival was successful and thanked

everyone for all their hard work.

G. Crabbing Bridge (Guilford).

K. Lee Hall noted on September 19 the commission that is working with the DOT will meet with them to discuss the final report. Then there will be a citizens meeting. Stay tuned , more info will be coming.

H. Farm River coalition

Chairperson Wells Sweeney talked of the two days of mechanical harvesting that took place and showed photos of the clean-up which took out about half of the invasives.

I. Pilot Forest Stewardship Plan

P. Sweeney reviewed the procedure for putting this plan in place noting the first step is to choose a previously approved Forester. Then, they meet with them to establish the stewardship goals for the parcels of land. The next step is the Forester will visit the properties and develop a plan for each one. He will keep the commission updated as to the progress.

6. Reports:

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

B. Library books donations

C. Kaminsky said she will email the school librarians soon for their suggestions.

She then made a motion to approve \$600.00 for library book purchases.

Chairperson H. Wells Sweeney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

D. Spill reports- None

E. Contaminated sites - None

F. Coastal Resiliency Plan- Nothing was discussed

G. Cross-commission meeting- Nothing was discussed.

7. Other:

A. Tweed Airport Expansion- Nothing was discussed, no new news.

Carol Kaminsky asked everyone to review the membership list and let her know if anything should be changed.

8. Adjournment--- at 8:32 pm