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Town of Branford  
Community Forest commission

Minutes

February 28, 2019

Canoe Brook Senior Center

- 1) Meeting convened by co-chair Nancy Mancini at 5:04 pm. Present were Louise LaMontagne, co-chair, Shirley McCarthy, Dan Fitzgerald, Diana Ross, tree warden. Absent were Doug Welch and Gary Zielinski, Public Works.
- 2) Minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting were approved.
- 3) Motion was made by Shirley McCarthy, seconded by Nancy Mancini to approve the agenda for February 21, 2019 as the agenda for February 28, 2019 (due to lack of quorum on the previous date).
- 4) New Program: tree stewards. Nancy has written to all the current tree stewards (one for each voting district, except districts 4 and 6 which are still vacant) as to their responsibilities.
- 5) Nancy and Louise reported on their recent meeting with Town Planner Harry Smith concerning the possibility of the tree commission assisting ZEO Jaymie Fredericks in encouraging compliance with vegetation plans submitted by commercial entities but possibly not completed or lapsed. Dan suggested using summer interns to assist Jaymie in compiling a list of said entities.
- 6) Diana has completed and filed an application for a TD Bank grant for wetland preservation and tree planting in the area of the Thimble Islands Condo on Jefferson Rd. No word yet on any awards.
- 7) Tree Ordinance: Given the seeming difficulty of getting the First Selectman and the Town Attorney to meet, Nancy has asked Trista Milici (administrative Assistant) to try to set up a meeting between them, and including Diana, in order to move the ordinance process forward.
- 8) Discussion was had re: next month's meeting which will be followed by an open meeting to include various neighboring town tree commissions to discuss matters of mutual concern. Some of the agenda items discussed were: a) Eversource's overly aggressive pruning/removal, b) compliance with tree ordinances, and c) planting and public education. Dan volunteered to capture the proceedings on the a/v equipment in the Sliney Room. Yea, Dan!

- 9) Diana outlined spring planting, particularly on Katie Joe Lane and in response to residents' requests. Discussion was had as to moving new trees 10 feet back from power lines. This will involve residents' permission for same.
- 10) Diana has a new assistant, David McCarthy, to whom we should issue an invitation to a future meeting.
- 11) Dan reported on Town clean up day, April 27, and asked for areas that particularly need attention.
- 12) Discussion was had re: oversight of Community House planting.
- 13) Arbor Day: April 26<sup>th</sup>, it should be celebrated in coordination with the ongoing festivities for the Town's 375<sup>th</sup> B'Day. The commission agreed to offer a certificate of recognition to the Anchor Reef Developers for the amount and type of tree-planting on that property. The Commission will also be choosing a location for a new tree planting.
- 14) Meeting adjourned at 6:10.

Respectfully submitted

Louise LaMontagne, co-chair