

## Community Forest Commission Meeting Minutes for 1 / 28 / 2021

Location: Zoom Meeting

Topic: Community Forestry Commission January Meeting 2021

Time: Jan 28, 2021 05:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Attendees: Shirley McCarthy, Patrick Sweeney, Dan FitzGerald, Gary Zielinski

Guests: Wayne Cooke

5:38 – meeting called to order.

1. Approval of minutes of 12 / 17 / 2020
  - a. Dan 1st, Shirley 2nd
  
2. Spring Planting
  - a. Tree Order: 47 trees on list
  - b. Richland Property Plan: 3 red rocket maples to be planted with black gum interspersed
  - c. Foote Park: this is a Park & Rec project (Gary will provide oversight). In future, Gary will arrange time for CFC to meet at site. Gary needs tree suggestions by March 1.
  - d. Other Sites: Gary recommends targeting areas that have taken hit from storms – e.g., lower Owego, Windmill Hill, Jefferson Road (bioswale – Jefferson to Burban), Walsh MS, High School, ELC. Zielinski open to additional suggestions, but be aware of powerlines. Also note that we can plant in town right-of-ways and town-owned property.
  - e. Gary offered that donations can fund tree plantings – send to Pam as donation to Memorial Tree program. This program is not well publicized. Suggestion was made to do a press release.
  - f. The annual budget for tree plantings is about \$10 – 15 K per year. In a typical year, about half of this is reimbursed from grants.
  - g. Recommendation to target Arbor day as a time to kick off planting. By then trees should be delivered.
  
3. Invasive Management
  - a. Current Projects / Strategy: Removal of invasives is occurring at the Branford Early Learning Center.
  - b. CFC can play a role in invasive removal by providing assistance in tree identification for removal.
  - c. Dan suggested that there could be a town initiative to remove Tree of Heaven. More work needed to explore methods of removal, possibly

pulling up by roots. Could mark trees with paint to mark for removal by Public Works.

4. Tree Planting Plan for 2021.  
See item #2.
5. Branford Urban Forestry Management Plan.  
Tabled for another meeting. Will discuss in summer after street planting work is done.
6. Carbon Sequestration
  - a. Press Release Update: Released and generated positive feedback & speaking opportunity.
7. PURA Update
  - a. Final Draft Review: There were changes to enhanced tree trimming processes.
8. New Business
  - a. GC3 plan and 2020 Forest Action Plans were released by DEEP, etc. Will circulate both plans to group and discuss during a later meeting.

6:32 – meeting adjourned  
Shirley 1<sup>st</sup>, Patrick 2<sup>nd</sup>.