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**Community Forest Commission  
Minutes from 9 / 19 / 2019**

2019 OCT 16 A 1:29

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BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Present: Nancy Mancini, Dan FitzGerald, Shirley McCarthy, Patrick Sweeney, Doug Welch, David McCarthy, and Gary Zielinski.  
Guest: Craig (the butterfly man)

Location: Canoe Brook @ 5:30

1) Approve of meeting minutes of 8 / 15 / 2019

Commissioner S. McCarthy made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes, Commissioner second the motion which passed unanimously.

2) Branford Tree Warden -

David McCarthy installed as new Town tree warden. Mr. McCarthy states he wishes to continue the CFC mission to promote and educate about the benefits of trees in his new role. The CFC members request that Mr. McCarthy works with the town to develop a process for each new Planning and Zoning application be reviewed by the Tree Warden prior to approval.

3) Introductions –

New Members:

Patrick Sweeney - new member of the CFC -Welcome Patrick!

4) Fall Planting -

Priority of planting is Richland Property perimeter

Commissioner S. McCarthy is working with the DOT to get the site released to the Town so the planting can occur

Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Zielinski are working on a plan to define the number of trees and the types of trees to plant.

Mr. Zielinski brought up the topic of replacing of Bradford Pear trees on the town green.

Mr. Zielinski requests assistance from the CFC to develop a plan to remove and replace the Bradford Pears. The plan may need to be conducted over several years, and the public will be made aware of the plan prior to any tree removal. The CFC will continue to discuss this topic at future meetings.

5) Status of Tree Ordinance (moved until September)

Moved to October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Station. The Tree Ordinance is on the RTM agenda and will be voted upon. All CFC members encouraged to attend in support.

6) Status American Chestnut Orchard and Pollinator Pathway projects

Commissioner FitzGerald continues to discuss options for a American Chestnut Orchard with the First Selectman, a site has not been identified but multiple options remain. Repurposing of current land to be used as a seed orchard may require RTM approval.

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Pollinator Pathway Project – continues in the planning phases with the Branford Environment and Conservation Commission. A pollinator pathway map has been made with the assistance of the First Selectman to identify areas from Town Hall to Stoney Creek that will serve as a first phase of the Town projects. There will be an official Pollinator Pathway kickoff in the fall.

7) New Business:

Mr. Zielinski discussed working with the DOT to identify on/off ramps for the town to take responsibility of managing the area to plant native trees and plants. This would allow an individual, business, or civic organizations to “adopt” the area and plant/manage the area. A sign would be added that identifies the responsible party for the site. The CFC agrees this is a beneficial idea in spreading the use of native plants and repurposing the idle current land for native plants. The CFC will continue to discuss areas for recommendation of release from the DOT.

8) Adjournment: at 5:51 pm