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**TOWN OF BRANFORD**

**Community Forest Commission Minutes January 18, 2018**

Present: Shirley McCarthy, Louise LaMontagne, Nancy Mancini, Chris Woerner, Joann Minicozzi

Absent: Diana Ross

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

1. The minutes of 11/16/17 and 12/27/17 were approved. Motion by J.Minicozzi; Seconded by N.Mancini
2. POCD follow-up – L. LaMontagne mentioned asking Bill Horne on the POCD Steering Committee about what the process /follow up is for requests made at the 1/10/18 meeting. As suggested to S. McCarthy by Alex Palluzzi, Marci Palluzzi on the Planning and Zoning Commission is a good person to ask about how P&Z currently works in reference to trees.
3. Spring Planting – J.Minicozzi met with D.Ross to discuss sites for spring planting along Main St. in the 4<sup>th</sup> ward, as well as a few other sites along scenic Route 146/Main St. However, budget constraints as well as time constraints for the DPW may push the planting in the 4<sup>th</sup> ward to the fall. D.Ross will meet with Gary Zielinski of DPW to finalize the number of trees to be planted this spring.
4. Utilities: Spring Vegetation Management – All CT municipalities should be receiving the 2018 vegetation work plans by the end of January. This plan will list all of the trees in town that the utility company plans to prune or remove. The CFC would like to see this list when it becomes available to D.Ross. We discussed ways to make this list more readily available to the public. The trees on this list will have to be inspected by either Diana, members of the CFC and perhaps by a growing number of citizens who are concerned about the excessive tree destruction at the hands of the utility company and have volunteered to help in any way.
5. Regulations/Ordinance/Management plans – S.McCarthy and J.Minicozzi will revisit the Tree Management Plan to work on further revision. In addition to providing written guidelines for town tree management, it will also be given to new developers in town; L.LaMontagne and N.Mancini will meet with D.Ross to discuss the progression of the Tree Ordinance; D.Ross will clarify the term “regulations” at the next CFC meeting. It was suggested that we look to other towns’ tree regulations as a model for formulating our own.
6. Elect Chair – S.McCarthy nominated L.LaMontagne to become the new Chairman of the CFC and N.Mancini as the Assistant Chairman. These nominations were seconded by J.Minicozzi. A vote was taken and the nominations were unanimously approved.
7. Agenda for next CFC meeting with the Hamden Tree Alliance – We discussed the agenda for next month’s meeting where we will have guests from the Hamden Tree Alliance. Some of the issues to be discussed will include: the South Central Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan and how it impacts tree removal; and dealing with the utility company’s increasing destruction of trees.

New Business:

8. CFC webpage – It was suggested that we review the CFC webpage and update if needed. N.Mancini will discuss further with D.Ross.
9. Arbor Day – As Arbor Day is quickly approaching, we have to start thinking about possible recipients for this year's Eco-friendly Award. J.Minicozzi will contact someone from the Conservation/Environmental Commission to see if their organization may want to participate with ours in celebrating Arbor Day.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm; Motion by S.McCarthy; Seconded by L.LaMontagne.

Submitted Respectfully,  
Joann Minicozzi  
CFC Commissioner