

Community Forest Commission Meeting Minutes 3/13/17

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

Motion to open meeting by Shirley McCarthy, seconded by Louise LaMontagne

1. Tree Planting 2017/2018: Diana Ross is working with acting Public Works Director Gary Zielinski to coordinate the ordering/planting of approximately 39 trees in town this spring. The ATB Grant (\$3700) should allow for additional tree plantings in 2018, including trees to replace the Bradford Pears along Main Street from Hillside Avenue to Chestnut Street. Diana Ross met with the Town Center Review Board to discuss the tree plan, which was receptive to diversity and native tree plantings, although Diana voiced concerns that some non-natives may have to be considered due to planting pit restrictions along Main Street. Shirley thought that if a non-native had to be used, preference should be given to those that benefit wildlife.

-We discussed the possible replacement in the fall 2017 of some of the trees that were removed by the utilities on Main Street in the 4th ward. We would need a DOT permit to plant there, as it is a state road. The Dept. of Public Works normally handles the permits. Diana Ross will look into it.

-Arbor Day planting: Diana Ross will talk with the Department of Public Works regarding the logistics. A site has to be finalized but the High School was discussed as a probable site.

2. We discussed the continued concern over Eversource's cutting/removal of trees in town. Diana Ross currently reviews their plans for cutting/removal but due to the large numbers of trees involved, she has to limit her review to trees scheduled for removal rather than just pruning. It was noted that most of Eversource's crews do a fairly reasonable job with pruning, compared to several years ago.
-Shirley McCarthy met with Diana Hoffman, Co-founder of Hamden Tree Alliance, to discuss the formation of a loose alliance of town tree commissions to support and/or review upcoming tree legislation and discuss concerns with the utilities/DOT's tree management practices.
3. Tree Stewards: Louise LaMontagne will talk with the Branford Land Trust so that we can utilize their model for volunteers/stewards. The role of the Tree Steward has yet to be defined. Shirley McCarthy will research if other Towns have Tree Stewards and what are their roles.
4. The Mulch Flyer will be sent back for further graphic revision before it is finalized and distributed. Chris Woerner suggested also showing a damaged tree due to poor mulching technique.
5. Eco-Friendly Award: Pam Johnson from the Sound Newspaper will be publishing an article about the CFC and our goals. The article may also help us find a recipient for this year's Eco-Friendly Award. Flyers to raise awareness about the award and to solicit nominations will also be posted in prominent places such as the Blackstone Library, the Post Office, and Town Hall. Joann Minicozzi will be responsible for the printing and posting of flyers. We will also be contacting local nurseries that sell natives to see if they can suggest any potential recipients for the Eco-Friendly Award. Chris Woerner will contact Broken Arrow Nursery and Nancy Mancini will contact Natureworks.
6. Monarch/pollinator corridor update: Diana Ross plans to walk with botanist Eleanor Saulys in the spring/summer to identify plants already growing in the future sites. The possibility of a future Sound Newspaper article to raise awareness of the corridors was mentioned.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm. Motion by Joann Minicozzi, seconded by Nancy Mancini.

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