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BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Community Forest Commission Meeting Minutes 4/20/17

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

Absent: Chris Woerner

1. Minutes from 3/13/17 were approved. Motion by J.Minicozzi, seconded by L.LaMontagne
2. Discussed our upcoming Arbor Day celebration which will take place at 10am on Thursday 4/27 at Sliney School. A sugar maple will be planted. The recipient, if any, of this year's Eco-friendly award is still being reviewed.
3. An Earth Day celebration will take place on the town green this Saturday 4/22 from 11-4. The Science march in New Haven conflicts somewhat.
4. D.Ross gave the commission an updated spring tree planting list. There will be 44 trees planted. Diana said that acting Public Works Director Gary Zielinski is committed to the watering of these trees and watering bags have been purchased.
5. D.Ross will speak with G.Zielinski regarding the tree budget for the fall so that we can begin scouting out potential planting sites. Once the sites have been identified, a DOT permit will have to be filed by G.Zielinski if any of the sites are on state roads. It was mentioned that the 4th ward, in particular, is in need of trees to replace those recently removed by Eversource.
6. Eversource update: S.McCarthy mentioned that she had received numerous complaints about the amount of pruning/tree removal done by Eversource. D.Ross reported that Eversource is, thankfully, almost done with their trimming/removal work in town.
7. Mulch flyers are complete and have been distributed by S.McCarthy and N.Mancini to Van Wilgens, Shelley's Garden Center, Richlin's, and the Transfer Station. These flyers will be given to any customers purchasing trees or picking up mulch.
8. Monarch Corridor update: S. McCarthy reported that the plan to plant pollinators at the Branford Hills School site is currently on hold pending the outcome of the Parkside Village Project. The Branford Hills School site is now a potential site for Parkside Village.
9. Tree Stewards: L. LaMontagne will work on a description of the role of a Tree Steward. Once determined, we will work on recruitment.
10. New Business:
 - We discussed the need to increase awareness of the CFC. J.Minicozzi will contact Pam Johnson at The Sound newspaper to discuss having a monthly public service article featuring notable trees and "tree tips", complete with photos.
 - S.McCarthy discussed the CT Airport Authority's plan to deforest many acres of land, including trees within the CT State Park and Forest system. The reason for the removal is allegedly to improve aviation safety. Members of this commission were encouraged to write letters to the CAA in protest of this decision.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm. Motion by N.Mancini; Seconded by S.McCarthy.