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BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Community Forest Commission Meeting Minutes 5/18/17

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

Absent: Chris Woerner, Diana Ross

1. Minutes from 4/20/17 were approved. Motion by S.McCarthy; Seconded by N.Mancini
2. Tree Stewards – L.LaMontagne is continuing to research this topic.
3. Mulch Sign – S. McCarthy reported that the mulch sign is finally being printed by Dan McGowan and hopefully will be hanging near the mulch pile at the transfer station soon.
4. Wilford Ave- J.Minicozzi reported that the two Hornbeams that were donated by Wilford Ave. residents are in the process of being planted by Gary Zielinski. The existing dogwood in front of 48 Wilford Ave., which was found not to be in keeping with the neighborhood streetscape, will be moved to South Main Street, adjacent to the municipal parking lot. Gary Zielinski's crew will be responsible for watering the dogwood until it gets established. J. Minicozzi will follow-up with Gary.
5. Fall Planting/Wildflowers- This item will be moved to next month's agenda when Diana Ross will be present. Diana did report via email that the ATB Grant plantings are almost done.
6. Branford Festival – It was decided that the CFC will not be participating in the festival this year.
7. Parkside Village – S.McCarthy spoke with Doug Denes who showed her the revised plan for the expansion of Parkside Village. Although this revision has less tree loss than the previous plan, Shirley estimates a 50% loss of trees/wildlife. As there is ongoing controversy associated with this project, the CFC has decided to wait to see what moves forward.
8. New Business:

A). Notable Trees – L.LaMontagne will contact Pam Johnson about running a series of Public Service articles in the Sound Newspaper which will feature photos of notable trees in town and an explanation as to why the featured tree is notable. The proposed tree photos will be taken by Chris Woerner and CFC members will take turns providing the text. All members agreed that having a regularly published article on notable trees will increase much needed public awareness of the importance of our town trees.

B). Complaints – All members of the CFC reported receiving numerous complaints from town residents about the destruction and overzealous pruning of town trees. We agreed that we need to take a more assertive stance with Eversource regarding this issue. We also agreed that there is a need to make public the town's gameplan regarding the removal and replanting of the Bradford Pear trees along Main Street.

C). Notification/Education of residents – We agreed that it is important to notify a homeowner before the town plants a tree in front of their house. This will give them the opportunity to object before the tree is planted. We also discussed the need to educate the residents that are having trees planted in front of their homes about the care of the newly planted trees.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm: motion by J.Minicozzi, seconded by N.Mancini.