

Community Forest Commission meeting minutes 6/14/17

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

Absent: Chris Woerner

1. Minutes from 5/18/17 were approved by J.Minicozzi; seconded by L.LaMontagne.
2. Eversource – Members of the commission discussed the numerous resident complaints they continue to receive regarding the overzealous and deforming pruning and removal of so many of the town trees. D.Ross stated that Eversource is not yet done. Diana does get a list from Eversource of the trees involved, but the list is so long that it is difficult for her to address each tree. Her jurisdiction does not extend to trees on state roads. It was suggested that Eversource have an arborist go out with whomever decides on pruning/removal. It was also suggested that members of the commission write their legislators with our concerns regarding this town-wide decimation.
3. Spring Planting/Future Planting – D.Ross advised that the spring town planting has been completed. A total of 39 trees were planted through ATB Grant funding. The possibility of additional tree planting in the fall was discussed, subject to funding available from the new town budget. Members of the commission will look for possible fall planting sites. Windmill Hill was mentioned as one possible site. J.Minicozzi will investigate the feasibility of replacing trees removed by Eversource on Main St. between Kirkham and Bradley Street (4th ward).
4. Rail Quad Track – J.Minicozzi attended a recent public meeting in Guilford regarding the Federal Railway Administration's proposed plan to increase the rail tracks from two to four in the rail segment from Branford to Guilford. This will have a profound impact on historic homes, wetlands, trees and wildlife along that stretch. Members were encouraged to spread the word, write to their legislators and to contact the FRA's acting commissioner to demand adequate studies and provide justification for this expansion.
5. Notable Tree Article – L.LaMontagne has been working with Pam Johnson at the Sound Newspaper in the hopes of launching a monthly notable tree feature. The proposed inaugural tree will be the stately Elm located on the corner of Montowese Street and Averill Place. The notable tree series has not been approved by the editor of the Sound yet. Photo of the elm will be provided by N.Mancini.
6. CT Tree Alliance update – S.McCarthy. Diane Hoffman has been communicating with Chris Donnelly of CT DEEP who will contact tree wardens for us. We will contact other sources to create a statewide list of activists to protect trees from overzealous cutting and pruning.
7. New Business – none
8. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm: motion by L.LaMontagne; Seconded by J.Minicozzi.

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