

RECEIVED

2017 JUL 24 A 8:39

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Community Forest Commission
Special Meeting Minutes 7/19/17

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

Absent: Chris Woerner, Gary Zielinski

1. Minutes from 6/14/17 approved by J.Minicozzi; seconded by N.Mancini
2. Watering: There are several newly planted trees that need watering: 3 dogwoods near commuter parking lot, Harrison ave and oak on Driscoll have been noted as drooping. D. Ross will speak to Gary about this.
3. Fall Planting – D.Ross reported that 12 trees will be planted in the fall. A list of possible sites was provided by Diana that include Bryan Rd, Mill Creek Rd, Windmill Hill, Block Island Rd, and Yowago. J.Minicozzi also suggested that Church St. can use at least 3 additional trees. N.Mancini will write up watering instructions to send to residents that will have a newly planted tree in front of their homes.
4. Notable Tree Article – L.LaMontagne discussed criteria for future notable trees to be featured in the Sound Newspaper. It was decided that we would stick to native trees that are highly visible and that stand alone. Suggestions for the next submission: The Pin Oak located in the center of the proposed round-about, the Black Oak at 5 Cottage Street, and the Beech located in the Branford Center Cemetery.
5. Gingko at the Community Center – J.Minicozzi brought up numerous resident concerns over the planned destruction of the 60-100 year old Gingko tree adjacent to the Community Center. The tree would have to be destroyed with the upcoming expansion project. It was decided, unfortunately, that the plans have already been approved by Planning & Zoning and it is too late to save the tree. A resident's suggestion to move the tree was also dismissed by D.Ross as she did not think a tree of this magnitude would survive a transfer.
6. Eversource – S.McCarthy reported a case where new poles being installed by Eversource were impacting trees on private property. After discussing this situation with Mikey Hirschhoff, it was determined that, unless Eversource had an easement, the property owner has the ultimate say in what happens to the trees on their property. Eversource was not forthcoming with that information until it was clear that the property owner knew her rights and was going to maintain a no touch tree stance.
7. CT Tree Alliance – S.McCarthy, Diane Hoffman and others are working on building a statewide network of community forest and conservation commissions for the purpose of exchanging information such as pending tree legislation, decreasing the utility companies destruction of trees, and helping us all to be better tree advocates in our respective towns.
8. Tree Plan for Main Street – D.Ross will be working with First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove and the Town Center Review Board on this matter. Diana is finding that there are many planting impediments in the streetscape, particularly in dealing with underground utilities and limited space for larger root balls.
9. Meeting adjourned at 6:15; motion by S.McCarthy; seconded by L.LaMontagne.