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## COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION minutes 9/21/17

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

1. The minutes of 7/19/17 were approved. Motion by J.Minicozzi, seconded by S.McCarthy.
2. Gingko Update – J.Minicozzi briefed the commission on the status of the Gingko tree at the Community House: Currently, the Gingko is slated for removal due to the Community House/Senior Center expansion. Several concerned citizens have formed a group called Save the 200\* Year Old Gingko and have met with First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove several times in an attempt to discuss transplant options. To date, there have been no concrete proposals from the group outlining the costs to transplant and maintain this very large tree. Since the costs to the town are unknown and could end up being quite high, and the chance of the Gingko's survival after transplant is unknown, the CFC cannot recommend using town funds for the transplant. The CFC would rather utilize precious town funds for the planting of more native trees. If the transplant and subsequent support of the Gingko can be funded privately, the CFC would be supportive of the endeavor. The CFC does not like to see the destruction of any healthy tree in town but this situation emphasizes the importance of early monitoring for possible tree destruction as new projects come up.
3. Fall Planting – D.Ross plans to plant 11 trees this fall. (Locations attached).  
Sliney School updates – S.McCarthy spoke with several parents that were concerned with the lack of shade over the playground due to the recent removal of a declining Oak tree. D.Ross plans on replacing the Oak with a Sugar Maple and placing a Black Gum next to it. The concerned parents are raising funds via the memorial tree program for additional trees. Per word of mouth, Joe Carbone from Facilities, does not want trees planted within the playground for fear of children running into them. We therefore thought that behind the new bench would be a good place and create shade from the southwest. It was noted that Eades Street could be a site for possible Spring tree planting.
4. Spring Planting 4<sup>th</sup> Ward – J.Minicozzi visited the stretch of Main Street (Rte.146) from Bradley St. to Kirkham. She found that 9 trees had been removed by Eversource, leaving the stretch basically barren. It was suggested that many of those trees be replaced in the spring but adequate root ball space and overhead powerlines are a concern. Also, since it is a State road, a permit from the DOT will need to be obtained prior to planting. J.Minicozzi also suggested that since a permit would have to be obtained anyway, perhaps additional trees could be planted on South Main St., specifically in front of #91-93 and 101 South Main St.  
Some pollinator trees for Branford Hills School are also desirable.
5. Parkside Village Tree Loss Update – S.McCarthy reported that, although the plans for Parkside Village have been revised to decrease tree loss, particularly along Route 146/South Montowese St., there is currently an approximately 50% tree destruction.
6. New Business – S. McCarthy will distribute common milkweed at Ecology Park and swamp milkweed and joe pye weed at Autumn Ridge.
7. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm; Motion by L.LaMontagne; Seconded by N.Mancini.

\*the actual age of the Gingko is not clear, but likely younger given old aerial photos.