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## Community Forest Commission Minutes 11/16/17

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

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Absent: Nancy Mancini

1. The minutes of 9/21/17 were approved. Motion by J.Minicozzi, seconded by L.LaMontagne
2. Tree Risk Assessment: D.Ross spoke about the many factors involved in the decision to remove a tree. These factors include the location of the tree, the potential risk of injury and/or property damage that can be caused by limbs or even the entire tree falling: Is there a target? What is the potential for the tree to block the road in the event of an emergency? What is the condition of the tree? Must the entire tree come down or could judicious pruning help to decrease the potential liability? D.Ross has several times consulted with an arborist from Care of Trees to aid in risk assessment, and in one instance, requested the use of a resistograph to measure a tree's internal decay.
3. CFC input into the town's Plan of Conservation and Development: The CFC has been asked by the POCD Update Committee to provide input into the revision of the plan, which is required every 10 years. We will all work on ideas and discuss at the next CFC meeting. Our suggestions need to be submitted a week before and presented at the POCD Steering Committee meeting on January 10. Some initial thoughts are to suggest that planting of natives be incorporated into the plan as well as listing the health benefits of trees, with perhaps articles to support this data.
4. Spring Planting: Members of the CFC plan to walk the streets of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward as well as South Main Street to determine possible tree planting sites along scenic Route 146. Once the sites have been determined, Gary Zielinski will be contacted so that he can obtain a permit to plant from the State of CT DOT.
5. The CFC briefly discussed how to encourage homeowners and business owners to plant more trees on their property. We also discussed the possibility of approaching the landowners to obtain permission for the town to plant on their property, particularly if their property is located in an area of considerable public view. It was agreed that some type of legal document would be necessary to pursue this action.
6. It was noted by D.Ross that utility companies were attaching cables to many of our town trees to act as supports for some of their poles. She will make some inquiries into the legality of this and how we can make them stop.
7. Notable Tree Article – Our latest article will be appearing in the Sound Newspaper soon. Members will be scouting for the next tree to be featured. We will be specifically looking for native evergreens such as Holly, Spruce, or Cedars. The trees should be located in a publicly accessible location.
8. Motion to adjourn at 6:40pm; Motion by L.LaMontagne; Seconded by S.McCarthy