

**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**PRESENT:** David Minicozzi (*Dave*), David Colley, Don Gentile, Pat Sanders, Amy Graver, Cynde Jasek, Susan Rood and Susan McNamara

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:36

2. **Parliamentary/Technical:**

a. **Introductory remarks-** **Dave** noted this was the Committee's first in-person meeting since the onset of Covid and our first meeting in new Community House. It also marked the 20<sup>th</sup> *Anniversary* of the establishment of the Green Committee in June 2001. **Susan McNamara** was introduced and welcomed as the second *At-Large* member.

b. **Minutes-** **Cynde** made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 2021. **Pat** seconded the motion and, after due discussion they were unanimously approved.

c. **Correspondence-** e-mail from **Pat** to **Abby York** regarding 2018 map updates and e-mail from **Don** regarding a memorial tree request, both to be discussed below.

3. **Updates & Old Business:**

a. **Status of the Green-** it was remarked that the Green has never looked so good for various reasons: first and foremost, the great care taken by the Departments of Park'n'Rec/Public Works, Davey Tree Service and the various contractors hired by the Town; the spring rain; the various newly planted trees being fully-leafed; the lack of clutter by various hardware; the French bistro tables; the lack of wear and tear caused by public events.

a. **Planting Plan 2021-** a general discussion of where and when to plant in 2021. As part of the annual *Arbor Day* celebration a red maple and Princeton elm were planted on South Main Street and a Princeton elm was planted in Section B in back of the Town Hall.

4. **New Business:**

a. **Green use applications-** two (2) were submitted: **i. Tabor Blues Jam** for various date throughout the summer; **ii. Woofstock on the Green** sponsored by Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter for August 28<sup>th</sup>.

b. **Reports-**

**i. Dave** presented the Committee's 2020-2021 *Annual Report*. **David Colley** moved that it be accepted and approved, **Susan Rood** seconded the motion, and after due consideration it was unanimously approved;

**ii. Pat** reported on progress with the GIS map. She presented an email and five (5) pages of detailed notes recently sent to **Abigail York**, the Town's new *Inland Wetlands Agent*. The map is meant to identify all the trees on the Green, to keep track of removed and newly planted trees, identify *Notable Trees*, memorial and donated trees, and otherwise keep the Committee and the public informed as to the general status of the trees. The map is current through 2018. A new numbering system is being considered

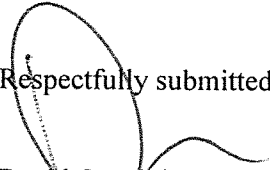
so the aerial map matches the written list of trees. Software for the GIS map is kept by the Inland Wetlands office. **Deb Mirto** (*Information and Technology Director* for the Town) has been/will be consulted to see if an interactive component of the map is possible;

**iii. Don** presented a request from for a red maple to be donated as a memorial to a resident's late husband, **Craig Leigh Levesh**, 2/24/56-4/24/21. The question was whether the family would adopt an already-planted tree (e.g. as the Garden Club adopted the Eastern Red Bud planted in back of Trinity Church) or whether they want to wait until a new tree is planted. Pending the resolution of that issue **Don** made a motion for the donation request to be approved, **Dave** seconded the motion and after due consideration the motion was unanimously approved. Discussion of installing a public display to thank the various donors past, present and future, and various Committee members agreed to work together to develop ideas regarding this project.

- c. Priorities and summer projects-** it was suggested that in spite of Covid-19 restrictions the Committee should continue its work regarding various priorities and projects: **i.** updating its planting plan; **ii.** developing an exhibit to showcase tree and shrub donations; **iii.** invite representatives of the *Notable Trees Program* to review our inventory for likely candidates; **iv.** develop a policy regarding signs and other displays; **v.** establish a public archive of Green Committee and other historical records; **vi.** institute a periodic series on green-related topics in the local press.
- 5. Other-** **i.** discussion of the possibility of improving the triangular portion of the Green at the western tip of *Section D*. This improvement would include replacing/updating the events sign located in that area; **ii.** a suggestion was made that some of the larger events be relocated to more appropriate spots in town; **iii.** discussion of working with various authorities to reduce signage along South Main Street; **iv.** **Dave** said he has reached out to the *Community Forestry Commission ("CFC")* to work toward planting more honey locust trees on the non-Green side of South Main Street; **v.** discussion of producing a "*Green Book*" containing articles, photographs and other materials for the public's use.
- 6. Adjourn-** upon motion by **Dave** and seconded by **Cynde**, after due discussion the motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:54PM.

*The next Green Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30PM*

Respectfully submitted,

  
David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem