

**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 22nd, 2021**

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

GUEST: Cameron Pierce, Davey Tree Service

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:30
2. **Annual Green Walk-** this being the Committee's annual formal inspection of the Green we circumambulated the grounds in a clockwise fashion beginning and ending at *Section A*. **Cameron** noted very little if any of the suggestions from last year's Walk were implemented. This was due to storm and Covid-related issues. He suggested we go light on new suggestions so as to allow the Town and his company to catch up. With that the following was noted:

A. The Walk-

- *Section A* is once again looking cluttered. There are four portable restrooms, 5 if you count the one installed for the construction workers across from Past Cosi; the gray reviewing stand installed for the 9/11 ceremony is still there; the BACA trash cans installed years ago (and the two art pieces in *Section B*, installed in 2019) are still there despite BACA having been asked, politely, to have them removed. The concern is this downward evolution is a growing trend which, if allowed to go unchecked, will result in *Section A* regressing to a pre-Covid state of disarray;
- The town Christmas tree is in good shape (the new spruce planted near Town Hall was not inspected);
- All newer trees (less than 5 years old) on *Section A* are in good shape;
- A suggestion was made that a "vignette" be planted in the bare spot in front of the *Winnifred Judge Garden* at the corner of Main & Montowese. *Volunteers are needed.*
- A member of the public asked that the "habitat" in a hollow branch in a tree against the Trinity Church (*Section B*) be preserved;
- A dogwood and another tree adjacent to the Academy will be judiciously pruned;
- Two "chips" (cross sections of a removed tree) were found on the ground in back of shrubs near the Academy. They need to be removed and taken to be made part of a commemorative for donated trees. *A volunteer is needed.*
- The white oak and apple serviceberry planted adjacent to the Academy are healthy;
- The plantings adjacent to the Yale Tablet (*Section B*) are in serious need of TLC;
- The planting plan for the rear of Town Hall (*Section B*) was revisited. The new elm was in good shape, and the grass meant to divert adjacent runoff has taken;

- The fate of the white pine/#42 (*Section B*) was once again debated;
- The False Cypress and its garden (*Section C*) are in good shape. It is apparent that someone has been pruning, edging and sprucing up the False Cypress Garden, the adjacent stand of trees (black cherry/#16) and the future home of the “vignette” corner of Main and Montowese.
- The Notable Tree cherry/#13 (*Section C*) is healthy;
- The newer trees in *Section D* are all doing well (dogwood, 2 white oaks, Eastern red bud in back of the Baptist Church; elm and maple planted along South Main Street this past Arbor Day);
- It was remarked that South Main Street is cluttered with street signs, many of which appear redundant;
- It was suggested that the sign at the Green’s apex (*Section D*) be replaced with something more aesthetically pleasing;
- *Section D* appeared to be generally in good shape;
- It was remarked that the area in front of the Congregational Church (#7/8) needs TLC and would look fantastic if that were to happen. *Volunteers are needed.*
- The planting plan for *Section A* adjacent to Town Hall Drive was revisited. This will not be implemented until after new sidewalks are installed, which appears to be slated for next year.

B. Post-Walk-

- General discussion on priorities and follow up. This included planting plans for the Green. It was reported that a number of groups and individuals have floated ideas for installations, structures and exhibits. The consensus among the Committee was these are to be avoided as “less is better” to achieve a clean look. In addition, it was remarked that new items on the Green should be avoided until old items are removed, and that new items should be scrupulously managed in terms of maintenance and time limits. The pattern has been items are placed (e.g., garbage cans and art) /built/planted (e.g., the Franklin tree) and neither the original proponents or anyone else follows up with maintenance or repair. A proposal was made that the proponent of any new installation, garden, structure etc. should be compelled to sign an “*Oath of Responsibility*” to maintain whatever it is that is being installed.

3. **Adjourn-** upon motion by **Dave** and seconded by **Pat**, after due discussion the motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:45

The next Green Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 12th, 2021 at 5:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem