

**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 12, 2021**

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

GUEST: First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM
2. **Parliamentary/Technical:**
 - a. **Minutes- Pat** made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 2021. **Cynde** seconded the motion and, after due discussion they were unanimously approved.
 - b. **Correspondence-** emails from **i. Robert Barnett** regarding the creation of a pedestrian mall by permanently closing Main Street to vehicular traffic from Laurel Street to the Montowese Street intersection (see 4.d.v. below), **ii. David Colley** regarding the unfinished pathway leading from Blackstone Avenue to the Congregational Church, and **iii. Douglas Welch** of the *Branford Community Forestry Commission* arguing against the removal of the white pine tree in back of Town Hall.
3. **Updates & Old Business:**
 - a. **Status of the Green-** Multiple issues were discussed including: **i.** the Committee as a whole decided to leave the fate of the aforementioned *white pine tree* to the discretion of **Cameron Pierce** of Davey Tree Expert Co. and, ultimately, to the First Selectman, **ii.** the Committee as a whole passed on the idea of planting a "*vignette*" at the corner of Main and Montowese Streets, **iii.** removal of the *burning bush plant* in back of the Congregational Church was discussed, **iv.** volunteers from the Congregational Church will work to improve the garden in the "*turn-a-round*" area in front of the Church; **v. Dave** made a motion that the *Academy* have the discretion to remove and/or trim a certain tree/shrub located at the left rear of the building as it sees fit to bolster the building's safety from future acts of vandalism, said motion being seconded by **Bonnie** and after due discussion the motion was approved unanimously, **vi.** discussion whether the plantings around the *Yale Tablet* should be kept or removed and grass be planted up to its base, no decision reached.
 - a. **Planting Plan 2021/2022-** tabled.
4. **New Business:**
 - a. **Green Use Applications-** none presented
 - b. **Reports-** tabled.
 - c. **Priorities and summer projects-** tabled.
 - d. **Guest-** First Selectman **Jamie Cosgrove-** multiple issues discussed including:

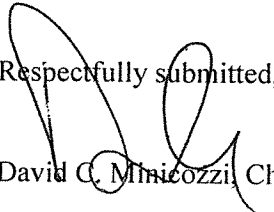
- i. **Jamie** will speak with Inland Wetlands Officer **Abby York** regarding GIS map updates. **Pat** will send **Cameron Pierce's** report to her and ask that she incorporate appropriate changes in to the updated map;
- ii. discussion of a *simplified look to the Green* being adopted, i.e., allowing grass to grow right up to the base of objects as opposed to circling with flowers, borders and the like; also that maintenance of existing displays, gardens etc. be emphasized over the addition of new elements;
- iii. discussion of long term solutions to *the need for restrooms on or near the Green* including the possibility of locating them at the current (and about-to-be-vacated) Board of Education building at the corner of Main and Montowese Streets;
- iv. discussion of *improvement and/or relocation of sidewalks* adjacent to or crossing the Green;
- v. the current project to *improve Main Street's roadbed* was discussed and no timeframe for completion was made available;
- vi. the above referenced proposal to permanently shut down part of Main Street to create a *pedestrian mall* was discussed. It was generally felt such a project, although creative, would not fit in with current development plans;
- viii. *recent acts of vandalism directed at the Academy* has prompted their commission to discuss various safety ideas going forward;
- viii. **Jamie Cosgrove** presented *plans for a Surveying Monument Project*. The purpose of the project is "... to place a permanent land surveying reference monument in a location that will serve both the surveying community in the Branford area... as well as being a dedication mark honoring deceased surveyor **Mr. Larry Fisher, LS** who surveyed in the community for many years..." **Jamie** presented a map showing the proposed location to be in front of the flagpole garden in the center of the Green. **Dave** made a motion to approve the plan, **David Colley** seconded and after due discussion the motion carried unanimously;
- ix. the previously approved *Town Hall Drive Planting Plan* was discussed. Said plan to include the planting of Rocket Red Maples and Tupelo/Black Gum trees, replacement of the asphalt sidewalk, placement of benches and trash pails, installation of lighting and removal of the US mailbox. The Plan is on hold pending installation of yet to be determined improvements to and reconfiguration of Town Hall Drive, with an emphasis on reducing its bituminous footprint.

5. **Other- None.**

6. **Adjourn-** upon motion by **Dave** and seconded by **Don**, after due discussion the motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

The next Green Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, December 14th, 2021 at 5:30PM

Respectfully submitted,


David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem