

**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

RECEIVED

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PRESENT: David Minicozzi (*Dave*), David Colley, Don Gentile, Pat Sanders, Laura Noe, Cynde Jasek
GUEST: First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove

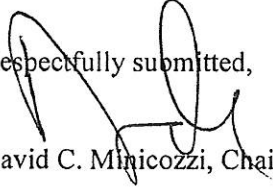
TOWN OF BRANFORD
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30
2. **Parliamentary/Technical:**
 - a. **Minutes-** having reviewed the minutes for December, 2019 and January, 2020 **Pat** made a motion to approve same, **Laura** seconded, and after due discussion they were approved unanimously.
3. **Updates & Old Business:**
 - a. **Correspondence-** emails from various persons were discussed regarding the *Christmas tree* on the Green; *the recently planted spruce* near Town Hall; and the concept of a "*protective corridor*" along South Main Street. Citing concerns for the safety and preservation of the Christmas tree **Don** made a motion that no Town official may remove the tree without prior consultation with the Green Committee, which was seconded by **Cynde**, and after due discussion approved unanimously.
 - b. **Status of the Green-** the general condition of the Green was discussed.
 - c. **Memorial Tree Recognition-** see below.
 - d. **Special Project Status-** see below.
4. **New Business:**
 - a. **Green Use Applications-** the following were presented: American Heart Association "*Go Red for Women*" event 1/31-2/28; Branford Environmental Commission "*Branford Earth Day/Clean Up Day*" 4/25 (TBD below); National Day of Prayer "*Pray for Our Nation*" event 5/7; Branford Community Garden "*Plant Sales*" 5/16, 8/15, 8/22 and 9/19 (with art sale); Smile Anyway "*Educate on Drug Epidemic*" event 8/29*; Pat Andriole Family Day "*A Day for Families*" event 9/13*; Branford Education Foundation "*Sunday Storytellers*" 9/20; Friends of Blackstone Library "*Book Sale Fundraiser*" 9/24-9/27; and Branford Garden Club "*Scarecrows on the Green*" 10/16-11/3. It was noted the * events have allowed vehicles to be parked on the Green and that this should be discouraged. Further, the Smile Anyway event anticipates 2000 attendees, prompting the question as to whether the Green needs to be roped off. **Dave** made a motion that the applications be approved, seconded by **Don** and after discussion said motion was approved unanimously.
 - b. **Reports-** tabled to next meeting.
 - c. **Planting Plans 2020-** see below.
 - d. **Priorities 2020-** see below.

- e. **Guest: First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove-** a list of Green Committee *Priorities 2020* was distributed for discussion; **Jamie** was informed of the proposed *2020 Planting Plan* and was generally approving of same, and of our choice of planting apple serviceberries; he suggested we *inspect the proposed planting areas* to ensure proper placement, especially regarding the area of the dead dogwood tree; regarding the *diseased spruce tree*, **Gary Zielinski** has contacted/will contact the nursery (Site One) to inspect the health of the tree and report thereon; he stated that the *Christmas tree* is staying put and is in no danger of being removed; **Laura** suggested planting something for *Endangered Species Day* (May 15th) and perhaps create a *vignette* in the area of the Franklin tree; desire for a *post clock* was reaffirmed, to be funded by the Town, which funding will be sought during this spring's budget process (appropriations sought in March and made available for use in July), *location TBA* because placement of the new banner poles need to be coordinated with the clock, *timing of the clock's installation TBA* due to the pending Main Street rehabilitation project, the funding for which was reallocated from the defunct Roundabout project (e.g., will clock be a stand alone project or be folded in to the Main Street project); the Committee made known their concerns of *surprise tree cutbacks* and the need for prior notice and/or authorization for tree trimming, especially along South Main Street; various methods of installing the *commemorative tree project* in Town Hall were discussed and were met with general approval, and a *sub-Committee to explore the way forward* was created and **Dave** appointed **Laura**, **Don** and **Cynde** to same.
- f. **Other- Dave** distributed copies of choice selections from a book called "*Greening Connecticut Cities and Towns*" by Robert M. Ricard and Glenn D. Dreyer. He asked the Committee members to read through it as it discusses the *Notable Tree Program*, how to deal with governments, how to care for trees, etc.; *discussion of potential move of the meetings* to the new Community House; a *new park bench* may be installed on the Montowese Street side of the Green between Trinity Church and the Academy; **David Colley** is exploring ways to blend a *pancake breakfast and Clean the Green Day* event into the Earth Day celebrations of April 25th.
- g. **Adjourn-** upon motion by **Don** and seconded by **Laura**, after due discussion the motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:03PM.

The next Green Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 10th at 5:30PM at the Branford Fire Department Headquarters. However, the meeting may need to be moved to the following week (March 17th) as the Chairman will be out of town that day, decision pending.

Respectfully submitted,


David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem