

**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 13, 2018**

RECEIVED

PRESENT: David Minicozzi (*Dave*), David Colley, Bonnie McKirdy, Pat Sanders

2018 MAR 23 P 2: 12

ABSENT: Maryanne Hall, Don Gentile, Jane Bouley

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

GUEST: Anthony Nardella

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:36 PM.

2. **Parliamentary/Technical:**

- a. **Approval of Minutes:** David Colley moved to accept the meeting minutes for February 2018, Pat seconded and they were unanimously approved as a group.
- b. **Dave** announced the resignation of **Jim MacBride** and **Tammy Becker**. Certificates of thanks will be sent and suitable replacements are already being sought. **Dave** also reminded the Committee that **Jane** tendered her resignation to become effective at the end of her current term, May 31, 2018.

3. **Updates & Old Business:**

- a. **Correspondence-** none.
- b. **Tree Location Sub-Committee- Diana Ross** will be approached to determine the status of tree orders, timing of planting etc.
- c. **Clean the Green Day-** not happening this year as the event does not have sufficient support from the community. Thought was given to approaching past supporters in an effort to encourage the event for 2019.
- d. **Reports from Public Works & Park'n'Rec- Bonnie** presented a report submitted to her from **Alex Palluzzi**. She will provide copies of same to the Committee in due course. She will continue to pursue **Gary Zielinski** for a similar report.
- e. **Christmas Tree- Dave** reported **Diana Ross** offered to plant another tree to get a head start in the event the current tree succumbs to disease, age or the ravages of Mother Nature. He will pursue and report back prn.
- f. **Green Use Applications-** presentation was given of whatever new applications have been made since our last meeting.

4. **New Business:**

- a. **Guest- Anthony Nardella of Nardella's Turf Care Inc.-** Mr. Nardella discussed his company's role in the care and maintenance of the Green. Among other things they are hired by the Town to care for the circular garden, the Cenotaph garden, the shrubs between Town Hall and the Congregational Church, and the rain garden next to Assagio's. They also oversee Section A twice/year and apply organic fertilizer (cost approx.. \$4-5,000.00).
He announced the Town of Branford is planning to install a generator next to the Town Hall. Nardella's designed the plan. It includes trees and shrubs that would provide screening from the generator. The existing shrubs will be transplanted and used as part of the new garden. Installation will occur this spring/summer.

He said in addition to Care of Trees, Park'n'Rec and Nardella's at least three (3) other companies are engaged in the Green's care and maintenance: DeMars for the irrigation system adjacent to the circular garden, ACL (?) for the euonymus bushes etc. along the fringes adjacent to Main/Montowese Streets, and John Olearczyk to mow the lawns.

Discussion ensued regarding philosophies of "renovation" v. "reconstruction" of the Green. Implication was that the Green is showing severe signs of distress and that current state of care and maintenance is "just keeping up" with current demands.

Suggestions included reducing the number of events on the Green and/or relocating some to other locations about the Town; spreading the events out more evenly throughout the year; imposing a tariff or "use assessment" on the biggest users of the Green; implementing "green belt" solutions to rid the Green of the packed dirt areas along Main Street; and other suggestions. *But the #1 suggestion which would go furthest to keep the Green looking good would be to irrigate the Green.*

- b. **Garden Club Report- Pat** reported the Club is in the process of planning future fund raisers and events.
- c. **Green Stewards-** ex-Committee members will be asked to remain actively observant of doings on and about the Green and to report anything troublesome to the Committee.
- d. **Update/codification of Committee policies and procedures-** tabled to a future meeting but Dave pointed out the need to update/consolidate at least four (4) policies: guidelines for use of the Green; temporary structures and signs; memorials, markers and plaques; and donation of trees & shrubs.

5. Other-

Topic discussed quickly included developing a policy banning/discouraging the parking of motor vehicles on the Green; possible plans to install a portable restroom on a "per event" basis rather than have them on the Green all season long; updating the "tree inventory" map in the Town Hall; getting articles about the Green etc. in local publications and on-line media; planting a temporary "spring garden" adjacent to the False Cypress tree.

Dave asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was made by **Bonnie**, seconded by **David Colley** and unanimously approved. The meeting then adjourned at 5:45 PM.

The next Green Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10th at 4:30PM at the Branford Fire Department Headquarters.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem