

**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JUNE 8, 2018**

**RECEIVED**

**PRESENT:** David Minicozzi (*Dave*), David Colley, MaryAnn Hall, Pat Sanders  
Amy Graver, Laura Noe

2018 JUN 25 A 8:56

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

**ABSENT:** Bonnie McKirdy, Don Gentile

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:34 PM.
2. **Parliamentary/Technical:**
  - a. **Approval of Minutes-** Pat moved to accept the meeting minutes for May 2018, Laura seconded and they were unanimously approved.
3. **Updates & Old Business:**
  - a. **New Trees-** the new trees are doing well and seem to be thriving. **Diana Ross** has been and will continue to be consulted requiring their care and maintenance. The First Selectman will be consulted regarding plans to safeguard the trees during the upcoming Branford Festival.
  - b. ***The Sound* article follow up-** general discussion regarding the good press we received in the local newspaper. Many issues were touched upon including the new no parking policy; the new trees; the history and mission of the Committee, its current membership and the organizations they represent; the tree donation program; possible sidewalks along South Main Street; the Notable and champion trees; the tree inventory map and GIS system; and other items.
  - c. **Policies and guidelines update-** discussion regarding **i.** the new "*no parking*" policy and how it may be implemented during the Branford Festival and other events; **ii.** the proposed new *Green Use Application & Guidelines* and if and when they will be utilized by the Town; **iii.** discussion of the proposed revision of the *tree donation program* was limited to provide **Don** an opportunity to discuss it at our next meeting. Items discussed included the First Selectman's final decision as to what trees may be planted on the Green, the mechanics of donations, factors to be considered in whether to accept or reject a tree or donation, and the importance of obtaining feedback on this revision from **Diana Ross** and **Jamie Cosgrove**.
4. **New Business:**
  - a. **Green Use Applications-** applications for the following events were circulated: **i.** The Community Dining Room's "Tuesday Night Dinner on the Green" for each Tuesday 5:30-7PM from June 19<sup>th</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>; **ii.** Trinity Episcopal Church's "Church Fair" September 28-29.
  - b. **Interim Green Walk-** **Dave** suggested an interim tree walk be held at some point between the Branford Festival and 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This will allow the newer members to become familiar with the Green and its various items of interest, flora, landmarks, memorials, and other curiosities. In recent years the annual tree walk has generally been held in late September/early October. In the early years of the Committee the walk was held twice a year.

- c. **Tree inventory map/GIS system-** Pat has graciously taken on this project. It had been monitored and updated by **Jane Bouley** for many years. **Dave** advised **Pat** to be in touch with **Diana Ross'** assistant, **Jaimee Fredericks**, who is familiar with the technical aspects of the mapping and GIS system.
- d. **Reports: Updates, Garden Club etc.-** Pat reported three items regarding the Garden Club: **i.** the flagpole garden has been updated by Van Wilgens. A red, white and blue theme has been adopted. The Garden Club will be responsible for its maintenance. The Club will hold a dedication ceremony, the date/time/place TBD; **ii.** The circle garden has been mulched; **iii.** the Club's flower show will be held at the Stony Creek Brewery on October 6-7. **Dave** updated the Committee on the false cypress garden project. He obtained an estimate from CT GardenScapes for \$1,355.96 to install and maintain an impatiens garden. However, when presented to the Town the First Selectman determined the matter should be handled by the Town, specifically by the Department of Public Works. With that in mind **Dave** will contact Acting Public Works Director **Gary Zielinski** to follow up on that project.
- e. **Special Projects-** **i. street clock:** Amy presented the Committee with a plan, originated in conjunction with the First Selectman, to install a tower clock on the Green. It would be placed on the Main Street side of the Green between the bus kiosk and the light pole. Discussion ensued regarding the benefits of such a structure, possible vandalism of same, whether a clock was redundant in light of the existing clock on the Congregational Church steeple, and other concerns. **Amy** previously sent the members a link to the website of a company which manufactures such clocks, <https://www.verdin.com>, which was provided to her by the First Selectman. **Amy** made a motion to pursue the project, which was seconded by **Pat**. After discussion the motion carried with five (5) votes in favor and one (1) abstention.
- ii. Green informational guide-** **Laura** volunteered to develop a list of facts, historical notes and items of interest regarding the Green for publication and/or distribution to the public. The thought being it would educate people about the Green, its relevance and importance in the modern world, its care and maintenance and other useful items. Possibility this could be developed in to a tri-fold and placed in the Town Hall and other venues for distribution to the public.
5. **Other-** quickly discussed were the Branford Festival "Festival Rules" in *The Sound* and the possibility of adding a map of available parking; **Diana Ross'** offer of a weeping hemlock tree obtained from a root cutting of a tree on Short Beach Road; the revelation that the false cypress tree is a Connecticut State Champion, not a national champion as previously thought; and literature from the Connecticut Notable Trees Program was distributed which identified, among other things, Branford's only National Champion tree, an umbrella magnolia in the Lake Saltonstall watershed area.

**Dave** made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by **Maryanne** and unanimously approved. The meeting then adjourned at 5:45 PM.

*The next Green Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM at the Branford Fire Department Headquarters.*

**THERE WILL BE NO AUGUST MEETING**

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem