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**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

PRESENT: David Minicozzi (*Dave*), David Colley, Maryanne Hall, Bonnie McKirdy, Don Gentile, Pat Sanders, Laura Noe, Amy Graver, Cynthia Jasek
Laura Noe

ABSENT: None

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:34 PM.
2. **Parliamentary/Technical:**
 - a. **Minutes-** approval of minutes of the July 10, 2018 meeting were deferred until October, this being a "special meeting."
 - b. **New member-** Cynthia Jasek was welcomed as the new representative for the First Baptist Church.
 - c. **Membership & Contacts list-** an updated list was distributed.
3. **Updates & Old Business:**
 - a. **Correspondence-** recent letters to **First Selectman Cosgrove** regarding the new Green Use Application form and an email to **Glen Chalder** of *Planimetrics* regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development were distributed.
 - b. **Status of the Green-** discussion included topics such as: the new *false cypress garden* is finally in and looking good; Trinity Episcopal Church's "*Accessibility & Landscape Improvement*" project were reviewed, including a map of the subject area; review of *recent articles* regarding the new false cypress garden and the Veteran's Memorial ("flagpole") gardens. **Dave** reported the "*Free Keys*" piano was finally removed. Much discussion regarding the piano ensued such as the fact that it was rarely seen being played; it was usually covered with an unsightly tarp; and concern was voiced about what to do if and when such a situation arises in the future. **Dave** emphasized the concept of *observational vigilance*: if you see something untoward occurring regarding the Green, report it to him immediately.
 - c. **7/30/18 Meeting with First Selectman and Diana Ross-** **Dave** reported on this meeting including:
 - i. South Main Street trees-* it was suggested 2-3 shade trees be planted between Blackstone Avenue and the false cypress garden. The Committee decided upon a copper beech, a London plane tree, and a non-sugar maple. **Diana Ross** previously indicated spring planting would be appropriate as a better selection of plantings can be ordered over the winter; she also said she would provide an aerial map of the area;
 - ii. Maple near Main/Montowese bus kiosk-* its removal is necessary as soon as it can be accomplished. It will be replaced, question remains as to what will replace it. **Don** had requested a section of the tree be saved to fashion a plaque to honor those who donate trees to the Green, and **Dave** reported **Cameron** of *Care of Trees* will endeavor to do so;
 - iii. Replacement blue spruce-* this project will coincide with an overall "planting plan" to occur in conjunction with the installation of a new transformer to the left of the Town Hall. Timing TBD. **Dave** will obtain a copy of the plan, devised by Nardella Lawn care, from Selectman Cosgrove;
 - iv. removal of the white pine* in back of Town Hall has been deferred.

This decision prompted concern regarding motives for removal of trees v. safeguarding them. It was suggested this concern be raised during the Green Walk in October.

- d. **Special Project Status-** *i. Tower Clock:* **Amy** reported she and Selectman Cosgrove have been corresponding regarding this matter. It was suggested the clock be made part of the Branford 375th birthday celebration next year and perhaps include a time capsule; *ii. Tree & Shrub Donation Policy:* **Don** asked for the latest draft to be re-distributed for discussion at our next meeting; *iii. Tree Inventory Map:* **Pat** distributed color copies of the new map along with a new inventory list of all the trees on the Green.

4. New Business:

- a. **Green Use Applications-** applications for the following events were circulated: *i. "Arts and Antiques Festival"* sponsored by Branford Education Foundation, *ii. "Annual Book Sale"* sponsored by Friends of Blackstone Library; *iii. "Annual Church Fair"* sponsored by Trinity Church; *iv. "Animal Awareness Day"* sponsored by Branford Compassion Club; *v. "2018 Walk Like MADD"* sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving; *vi. "Scarecrows on the Green"* sponsored by the Branford Garden Club; *vii. "Rent in Concert"* sponsored by Branford Parks and Recreation Department.

- b. **Annual Green Walk- Bonnie** verified this will be held *Tuesday October 16th at 4:30PM.* Since we only do this once per year it is important we all try to attend.

- c. **Reports: None**

5. **Ideas-** *i. First Amendment Wall:* **Laura** discussed the project which is sponsored by the Branford Arts Council. The proposal includes erecting 3 such structures, one each adjacent to the portable restrooms on the Green, at the Branford Arts Center, and at the Blackstone Library. To coincide with anniversary of the ratification of the First Amendment on September 25, 1789. Suggestion was made that **Laura** submit a Green Use Application in the usual course of business; concerns were raised regarding the possibility of foul, offensive or otherwise controversial language being written on the wall. After due discussion the Committee was generally in favor of the proposal with some minor dissent. *ii. Holiday Parade-* **Don** suggested the Committee take part in the Annual Holiday Parade. It was suggested that other parades may be more suitable. No official decision was made and the matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

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

The next Green Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11th at 4:30PM at the Branford Fire Department Headquarters.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem